THE CHILDREN'S LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

M. LOUISE PUTNAM

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To George Paul Hopper Jr.
From his friend
Edith Kingman Terry.

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LINCOLN STUDYING BY THE FIRELIGHT

THE CHILDREN'S LIFE

OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BY

M. LOUISE PUTNAM

NEW EDITION, THOROUGHLY REVISED

ILLUSTRATED

SIXTEENTH PRINTING

CHICAGO
A. C. McCLURG & CO.
1922

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1892; 1905

M. A. DONOHUE & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS, CHICAGO

TO

THE CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD,

This Little Book

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR.

PUBLISHERS' NOTE.

THE success that has attended Miss Putnam's little book since its original publication in 1892 has led the publishers to bring out this new revised edition. The more modern developments in our understanding of Lincoln's character and of what might be termed the morale of the Civil War, have made it desirable to change slightly Miss Putnam's standpoint and attitude, and there have been besides some other matters which required change or correction. The publishers now believe that in its present form Miss Putnam's life of the great President provides the best account of his career, for young people of from ten to fifteen years, that is available.

SEPTEMBER, 1905.

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION

THIS book does not claim to be written for the amusement of children. The market is already flooded with most desirable works of that description; and it is believed that parents will welcome an occasional book of pure instruction for young minds. The author's experience with children has led to the conviction that our great Civil War has created a desire in their minds to know more of the machinery of government than is usually found in works written for them.

This impression, together with the absorbing interest which pertains to all that concerns Abraham Lincoln, has led to the preparation of this work. His state-papers are so clear and logical, and at the same time so attractive, even when treating of ab-

struse subjects, that a child of twelve years can gain some understanding of them. And surely no richer legacy can be bestowed upon our youth than the recorded wisdom of our Martyred President.

M. L. P.

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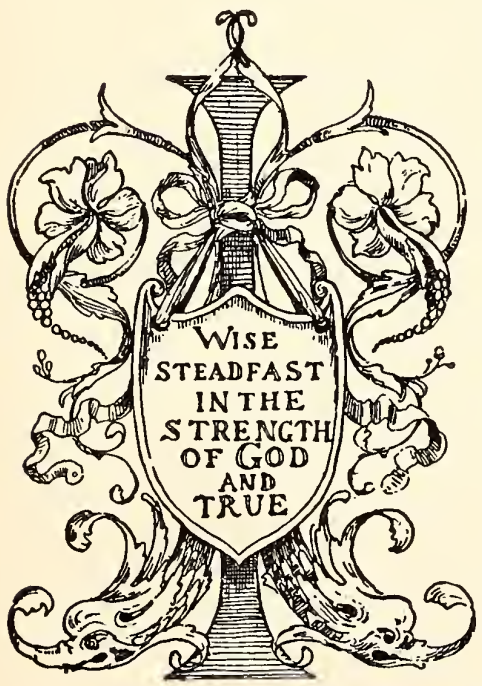
THE CHILDREN'S

LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

CHAPTER I.

Birth of Abraham Lincoln. — He begins his Education. — Incidents of his Childhood. — He removes to Indiana.



N an old log-hut without a floor, and with scarcely anything in it that could be called furniture, in a more miserable and forlorn-looking cabin than you, my dear children, probably ever saw in all your lives, on a cold winter's day in the early part of the last century, a little baby was born. The precise day on which this event occurred was the 12th of February, in

the year of our Lord 1809. The spot on which this hovel stood was near the banks of a river in the State of Kentucky, in what was then called Hardin County, but now bears the name of La Rue.

You would hardly believe that a little, tender, new-born baby could live, much less grow and thrive, in such an uncomfortable place as this poor hut. There were great cracks between the logs, where the snow and rain and sleet came driving in at pleasure, and at night the stars were plainly to be seen shining through chinks in the roof; so that with all the fire that could possibly be kept roaring up the wide chimney, I doubt not we should have found ourselves in a fearfully cold place, if we had made a visit to this same log-hut on the 12th of February, in the year 1809.

This new-born infant was a boy, although I believe I omitted to tell you that. He was a fine, healthy child, and was called Abraham. His father was Thomas Lincoln, and his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Abraham had one brother, who died in childhood; he also had a sister, a few years older than himself, who lived to womanhood.

His sister, I doubt not, was very much delighted with her little brother Abraham, and very proud when her mother allowed her to sing him to sleep,

or perhaps rock him in the rude cradle which his father managed to construct from the scanty materials within his reach. As the baby grew older, doubtless his sister patiently taught him to use his feet until he could walk, and hour by hour said over to him, as they lay on the beautiful green grass in front of their homely cabin, the words "father," "mother," "sister," until Abraham could say them himself. She little knew, this kind, good girl, that in helping to rear her dear baby brother she was doing something for everybody in these whole United States.

It did not seem probable that this little Abraham, whose parents were so very poor, would ever be known much beyond a few neighbors as poor and obscure as themselves. But I hope to be able to show you in these pages that he finally became one of the greatest men that ever lived.

We do not know much with certainty concerning his childhood before he was about seven years old. It was at this period that Abraham, or "Abe," as all the family called him, began to go to school, — not to such an one as you are blessed with, with your pleasant, comfortable school-houses, and nice new books, and above all your refined and able teachers, but to a miserable cabin, not unlike the one he lived in. He carried an old tattered spelling-

book under his arm, and had a teacher who barely knew how to read and write.

But Abe, as we must now call him, since everybody else did, thought it a glorious affair to go to school at all, as indeed it was. Very few children in that region ever saw a school, or knew what it meant. Their parents were for the most part very ignorant people, and not knowing how to read or write themselves did not consider it necessary that their children should be any wiser than they. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, however, were superior both in talents and acquirements to most of their neighbors, yet we should consider their education very limited. Mrs. Lincoln could read quite well, but, according to some authorities, could not write, though the latest claim that she could; but all agree, I believe, that her husband could do neither, except that he was able to scrawl his name in a rude manner, which he and his friends managed to decipher. Even this acquirement was due to the instruction of his wife.

But they both knew the value of learning, and determined to give their son all the advantages they could, which at that time did not promise to be many. Abe himself was very eager to be taught to read. There was no church for many miles around, and on Sundays his mother, who was a

most excellent Christian woman, was accustomed to spend a great portion of the day in reading to her family from the Bible. Little Abe would listen with the greatest attention and delight to those wonderful Bible stories of Joseph and Moses and Samuel and Daniel, and a host of others; but more than all, how the Lord Jesus Christ was born in a manger. Abe said to himself, —

"It would be very nice to read all those stories out of a book, as mother does; and I will try as hard as ever I can to learn."

In consequence of his good resolution he was quickly able to spell out easy words, and often carried home his old spelling-book and studied all the evening.

Abe, as we have said, was very fond of stories; and it was one of his greatest pleasures to hear all about the exploits of his grandfather, for whom he was named.

I can imagine that upon some cold, stormy night, when the wind was howling and moaning through all the cracks and crevices of the miserable dwelling, and shaking and rocking it so hard that it seemed every instant as if it would tumble down about their ears, Mr. Lincoln, who was a kind-hearted man and loved to make all his family happy, would pile the old chimney high with

logs, until there was a glorious blazing fire that made the little cabin as light as day; then, sitting down in the corner and taking his little son upon his knee, he would say: "Now, my boy, I'm going to tell you about your grandfather; this is a good night for stories."

Then Abe would sit and listen till his hair stood on end and his blood chilled, as his father told him all about those perilous times.

"I was only six years old," he said, "when my father was killed. One morning, when he was going out to work, he took my two older brothers and me with him. We had gone but a few rods from our home, when an Indian darted out from behind a tree and killed our father before our eyes. My younger brother started for the fort, which was a good way off, for help; but Mordecai, my eldest brother, ran to our cabin for his musket, for he meant to kill the Indian. He climbed up into the loft, where he could see the savage plainly, and take good aim. There was something on the red man's breast that served Mordecai for a target. He aimed at that; and the Indian was dead in a minute, for Mordecai was a famous shot.

"All this time I was alone with my dead father. I was too frightened to run or do anything but cry. The Indian, just before Mordecai shot him, see-

ing that both of my brothers had gone and left me alone, was coming up to grab me and carry me off, when he fell dead at my feet. Then I screamed

"AN INDIAN DARTED OUT."

louder than ever, and should have gone crazy if Mordecai had not rushed out of our cabin and come to me. He took me in his arms and tried to soothe me. I can see it all as plainly as if it

happened yesterday. I did not get over the fright for a long time."

It appears that Abe's grandfather and father, too, were born in old Virginia, in Rockingham County. But the grandfather decided, when his son Thomas, Abe's father, was a little boy, to move with all his family to the State of Kentucky. This event occurred about the year 1780.

At that time Kentucky was not a State, it was only a Territory: and the country where Mr. Lincoln settled was all a wilderness. There were no roads, no paths even, only as the settlers made them by cutting down the trees and thick underbrush which grew in their way. There were no houses of any description, except a few rude huts, scattered here and there in the dense forests. Abe's grandfather selected a spot for his dwelling a mile or two away from any other settlers. There were still many Indians in the country, and they were very cruel to white people, often murdering whole families.

The first thing to be done in a new country like this is to "clear the land." All the trees within a certain space must be cut down, and all the underbrush cleared away. Sometimes the ground is burned over, and various other things

are done to get the land into a proper condition to be cultivated. Whenever these new settlers went out to clear their land they were obliged, on account of the hostility of the Indians, to take their guns as well as their axes. The guns were kept constantly loaded, that they might be discharged at a moment's warning. But notwithstanding these precautions, settlers were often killed.

Abe's grandfather was more fortunate than many of his neighbors. He got on very pleasantly with the Indians for three or four years, and doubtless he and his family began to feel quite secure, and thought the Indians would never molest them. But, alas! one day, when Mr. Lincoln went out to clear a piece of land, the terrible tragedy occurred which we have related.

Abe's grandmother was now a widow and very poor, with three boys and two girls to take care of, which was more than she could do without assistance. So all the children were obliged to go away from home, except Thomas, Abe's father, who lived with his mother until he was twelve years old, when he, too, left her.

Little Abe was never tired of hearing about these strange, perilous times, and asked his father more questions about them than he was able to

answer; for even at that early age Abe showed a very discriminating mind, and wanted a reason for everything. When he had been a short time at the school of Mr. Hazel, — for that was his master's name, — and was just beginning to read short and easy words, his education was interrupted.

Mr. Thomas Lincoln, who had for a long time been discontented in Kentucky on account of its being a slave State, where it was considered a disgrace to work for one's own living, and where poor white people often did not fare as well as the slaves themselves, now decided that he could not live there any longer, and that he must sell his little farm and move away.

It was not very easy to find a purchaser for so small and poor an estate as his; but at length a man made his appearance who said he would buy it if he and Mr. Lincoln could agree upon the terms. Mr. Lincoln's price was three hundred dollars. This man said he had but little money, but had some whiskey, and would give ten barrels of whiskey worth twenty-eight dollars a barrel, and twenty dollars in money, for the farm. You will see, children, if you reckon it up, that this amounted to Mr. Lincoln's price. He did not altogether like the proposition, however, because he wished to move away quite a long dis-

tance into another State, and if he could sell his farm for money, he could put that in his pocket, where it would give him no trouble.

But ten barrels of whiskey would n't go into anybody's pocket, and it was very hard telling what to do with it. He did not want to drink it because he was a temperate man, and he could not sell it there; so if he took it, it was plain that he must carry it with him. It was a difficult question to decide how to move such cumbersome property through a country where for much of the distance there was no road at all. After some reflection, however, and talking the matter over with his wife, who was a woman of excellent judgment, he decided to accept the man's offer and take the whiskey and the twenty dollars.

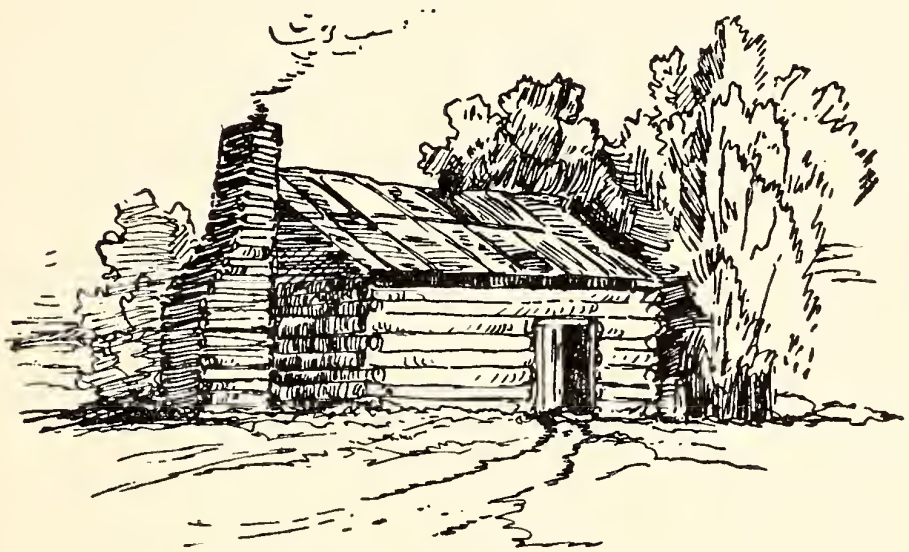
As I have already told you, Mr. Lincoln's cabin stood near the banks of a river. It is called the Rolling Fork River, and empties into the Ohio. You know that the Ohio is a large river, separating the State of Kentucky from the State of Indiana.

Mr. Lincoln decided to seek his future home in Indiana. So he concluded to build a flat-boat, — a rude sort of an affair not unlike a raft, which was often used at that time for transporting produce from one place to another.

Mr. Lincoln accordingly began his boat; and although little Abe was not yet eight years old, he was of great assistance to his father. When the boat was finished and launched, Mr. Lincoln loaded it with the ten barrels of whiskey, a few household goods, and some carpenter's tools, and pushed off for Indiana. He intended to float down the Rolling Fork into the Ohio, and then at a proper place cross the Ohio River. He succeeded in getting boat and cargo safely to the Ohio; but pretty soon after this was accomplished his boat upset, and down went whiskey and everything else, as well as himself, into the water.

Fortunately there was no other person on the boat at the time. He had thought best to leave his family behind until he had first selected a suitable place for a home, when he was to return for them. Thus he was all alone. But some men on the opposite bank witnessed the accident, and called out to Mr. Lincoln to hold on to his boat till they could get to him. Another boat was at hand, into which they quickly jumped and were soon at his side. They succeeded in righting Mr. Lincoln's craft and saving several barrels of the whiskey and a few other things, but all the rest was swept away.

Mr. Lincoln, however, was not yet discouraged; he started off again quite cheerfully with the remains of the wreck, and proceeding down the river to Thompson's Ferry, landed safely in Indiana. There he found a man who agreed to guide him into the interior of the country and



BIRTHPLACE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

take the boat in payment for his services. To this Mr. Lincoln was glad to consent, as he had no further use for the boat. Mr. Lincoln's place of destination was Spencer County, and to reach it was a formidable undertaking. It was necessary to cut a road the entire distance through a dense and almost impenetrable forest.

By dint of great perseverance and much hard labor eighteen miles of this difficult work were

accomplished. But Mr. Lincoln often said, in speaking of it afterward, that one of the hardest things he ever did was to get from Thompson's Ferry to Spencer County. He looked about this new country which it had cost him so much toil to reach, and at length selected a spot for his new home. Having done this, he left his small property in the care of one of the neighbors, and set out on foot for Kentucky. His family were waiting for him; and in a few days their preparations had been completed, and they were all ready to bid good-bye to the old homestead and proceed to Indiana.

CHAPTER II.

The Journey. — Arrival. — Abe helps to build a Log-cabin. — Continues his Education.— Learns to Shoot.— His Mother's Illness and Death. — His Grief. — He obtains New Books. — Learns to Write. — His First Letter. — His Mother's Funeral Sermon.

IF you could have seen Mr. Lincoln and his family equipped for this journey, children, I think you would have laughed. They had no wagon, and were to go on horseback. Abe's mother and sister were both mounted upon one horse. Abe had an animal all to himself, as had also his father; but their horses were loaded down with bundles and packages strapped on in every quarter, and presented a very grotesque appearance. Little space was left for the riders; indeed, Mr. Lincoln walked most of the way, leading his horse. In this manner they proceeded seven whole days over a wild and uninhabited region, tying their horses to trees when they were too tired or too hungry to go any farther, and for their own refreshment eating a bit of dry bread or cold meat which they had brought with them.

And when night came, what do you suppose they did for a bedroom? Why, they spread a blanket on the ground, and all lay down together under a tree, with another blanket over them, the green boughs arching high overhead. There they all slept as soundly as you do, tucked into your nice warm beds. At the end of seven days Mr. Lincoln told his family they had reached their new home; but they had only come to a great clump of green trees, without any house at all.

They were obliged to sleep on the ground as usual that night; but in the morning they awoke quite refreshed, and Mr. Lincoln told Abe that he must help him clear some land on which to build a cabin. So Abe took his hatchet and went to work, chopping away right merrily. By and by a neighbor who lived two or three miles away came to help them, and brought them something good for dinner, which you may be sure was very acceptable. They all worked, Mrs. Lincoln lending her aid, and in a short time had constructed a temporary shelter, in the form of a shed enclosed on three sides, the fourth being open to the weather.

This was better than nothing, and served them for a year, by which time they had erected a log-cabin, about eighteen feet square. This rude structure consisted of but one room, and had no floor but the

beaten ground. A chamber, however, was contrived for Abe, by placing some slabs across the logs overhead, and a rude ladder served for a staircase. A bedstead, a table, and four stools were hewn out of the rough logs, and then the house was pronounced finished and furnished. A new shed was built in the autumn.

As soon as the winter set in, Abe began to study again, with his mother for a teacher. She took great pains with him, and he amply repaid her by improving rapidly in his reading and spelling, and before the winter was over had mastered their whole library, which consisted of three books, — the Bible, the Catechism, and the old spelling-book from which Abe had learned to read.

But he did not spend all his time in study; no child could do that. Sometimes with his father he chopped down trees, and sometimes he practised rifle-shooting. It was of great importance in those new countries to be a good shot, because there were no butcher's carts or meat-shops or markets of any kind. When a piece of meat was wanted for dinner, somebody must go out and shoot some game. Abe practised until he became an excellent shot, and one day killed a wild turkey, which made them a good dinner.

They lived in this manner very happily for about two years, when one day Abe's mother was taken

very ill. The family were much alarmed, and tried to do something for her relief. The neighbors came and were very kind, but nobody could think of anything which made the poor woman any better. The doctor could not be sent for, because he lived forty miles away; so the poor, sick woman was obliged to lie and suffer upon her hard bed, with nothing to ease the dreadful pain.

One day she called little Abe to her side, and told him she thought she was going to die. Poor, poor child! what terrible words were these! He loved his mother with all the strength of his loving heart, and he did not see how he could live without her. His mother tried to calm him, and told him he must listen to her dying words and always remember and obey them, and then some day God would let him come and live with her in a beautiful world where nobody would ever be sick or die, or have to say good-by any more.

She told him he must always remember to keep God's day holy, as she had taught him; that he must never tell lies, or say wicked words; and above all, that every day he must read a chapter in the Bible, and say his prayers every night and morning. Little Abe promised to obey his mother faithfully, and we have reason to think he did so as long as he lived.

Mrs. Lincoln was in every respect a remarkable

woman. She was truly Christian in all her deeds, and little Abe knew that his mother always practised the very things she required of him. It was, doubtless, owing in a great degree to his mother's influence that he was so honest, truthful, and upright all his life.

Abe's mother grew worse and worse, and after a few weeks of severe suffering died and left her stricken family. Poor little Abe sobbed out to one of the neighbors who came in: "I have n't any mother now."

Amid many tears, prayers were said over the dear body, and then they carried it out and buried it under a beautiful tree. This was all the funeral they could have at that time, because there was no clergyman for many miles around.

Abe grieved sorely for his dear mother, and was so lonely without her that he did not know what to do with himself. His father felt very sorry for him, and sought to comfort him by saying that he would try to get a new book for him to read. But a book was a very difficult thing to obtain in that region. No family could boast of more than a very few, and many and many a house had not one. But soon afterward Mr. Lincoln visited a friend who lived about twenty miles distant, and there, to his great delight, he found an old, soiled copy of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. He instantly borrowed it for Abe. When he got home and showed this treasure

to his son, the boy's eyes sparkled, and he was so delighted that he could neither eat nor sleep. He fairly devoured the book, and was by no means content with one reading. When he was about half-way through it the second time, a lady came to see him and brought another book, Æsop's Fables, which she gave to Abe for a present. This was a prize, indeed, and Abe felt as happy and rich as a king. He read these fables until he could repeat them; and some persons have thought this book developed in him that remarkable love for stories for which he was so famous all his life.

Not long after this, another blessing fell to Abe. A young man moved into the neighborhood who knew how to write, and he offered to teach Abe if he desired it. This was a splendid offer, and Abe accepted it with all his heart. He wanted to begin that very day. His teacher could not attend to it then, but promised to do so very soon.

Abe's writing-book was the top of the table, and his pen a piece of chalk. He wrote all over the cabin stools, and sometimes on the trunks of trees, with a stick burned at one end, for his father was too poor to give him pen or paper. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages he made rapid improvement in this, as in everything else he undertook, and soon was able to write his name. Once with a stick he

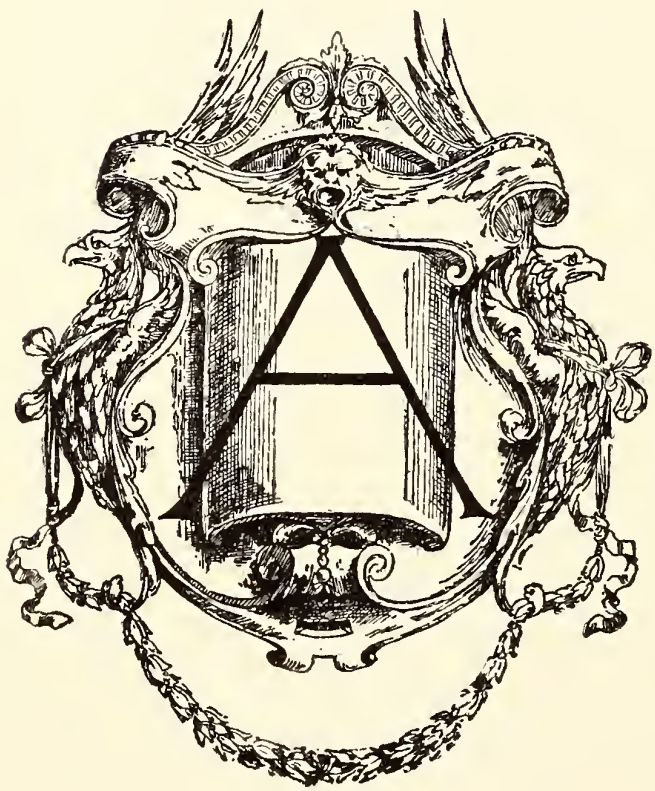
wrote "Abraham Lincoln" on the ground in his father's corn-field. Little did he dream that the name which he thus wrote on the soil of Indiana would one day be inscribed by his public acts upon every one of these United States in letters of gold, that shall shine beyond the brightness of the sun so long as the world shall stand.

In less than a year from the time when he began this branch of his education, Abe was able to write a letter for his father. This letter was an invitation to the clergyman who used sometimes to preach for them in Kentucky, to come and deliver a funeral sermon at the grave of Mrs. Lincoln. The letter was about three months on its way.

The minister accepted the invitation, and upon his arrival word was sent around to all the neighbors. People came from far and near to hear the sermon, some from a distance of fifteen miles. Some travelled on horseback, some in ox-carts, while many came on foot. It was a great event, as they seldom heard a sermon of any kind; but they were particularly desirous to hear this, for Mrs. Lincoln was much loved and respected. It was soon noised abroad that Abe wrote the letter inviting the minister to come, for Mr. Lincoln was so proud of it that he told of it. After this Abe had plenty of letters to write. All the neighbors employed him to write theirs.

CHAPTER III.

Abe's New Mother. — Her Kindness. — He goes to School. — The Buck's Horn. — The Ruined Book. — School Incidents. — Abe leaves School. — Goes to New Orleans in a Flat-boat. — Dangers of the Trip. — Safe Return. — Death of his Sister.



BOUT one year after the death of his wife, Mr. Lincoln married Mrs. Sally Johnston, a widow, with three children of her own. She was a superior woman and an excellent mother. Abe loved her dearly, and almost felt as if his own dear mother had come back. Mrs. Lincoln was also very fond of Abe,

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and treated him with the greatest kindness, doing all she could to promote his education.

About this time a certain Mr. Crawford moved into the neighborhood and opened a school. He could read and write, and also knew something about arithmetic. Abe's mother, as we shall henceforth call her, wanted very much to have Abe attend Mr. Crawford's school. So she dressed him up as nicely as she could. She made him a cap out of a raccoon skin, and a jacket and trousers of dressed buckskin. His father hunted up an old arithmetic for him; and thus equipped, Abe started off for school, very proud and happy. He was persevering, industrious, and obedient; and Mr. Crawford became very much attached to him.

But Abe's greatest charm in his teacher's eyes was his perfect truthfulness. Mr. Crawford said he did not think anything could induce the boy to tell a lie. It is related that a buck's horns were nailed to the back of Mr. Crawford's house, and one day they were found broken. Mr. Crawford went into the schoolroom and said, "Boys, somebody has broken my buck's horns. Do any of you know who did it?" "Yes, sir," said Abe, "I did it. I was hanging on them with my whole weight, and they broke right off. I did not think they would break or I should not have done it, and I am very sorry." This frank

avowal of the whole truth pleased Mr. Crawford so much that he forgot all about the buck's horns and forgave Abe immediately.

But Abe soon had a still stronger test of his truthfulness and honesty. Some months after this occurrence, and after Abe had finished his term of school, he found that Mr. Crawford owned Ramsay's "Life of Washington." He had read Weems's "Life of Washington," but he wanted very much to read this one too; so with his father's permission he borrowed the book. Mr. Crawford was very happy to lend it, and told Abe to keep it as long as he chose. Abe was delighted, and promised to be very careful. He meant to keep his word; but alas! one fatal night, when he had nearly completed it, a violent storm arose, and the wind blew the rain through a crack in the side of the house all over the borrowed book. When he came down in the morning, it was drenched through and almost ruined. Poor fellow! he did n't know what to do, but he went and told his mother. She kindly sympathized with him, and carefully dried the book before the fire; but the covers were warped, and its appearance was spoiled.

Abe soon decided what to do. He took the book under his arm and walked over to Mr. Crawford's, and showing it to him told him how it happened. "Now, sir," said Abe, when he had finished the story,

"I must pay you for this book, but I have n't a cent of money in the world; but I will do any kind of work for you that you ask, until you think I have paid for it." So Abe promised to cut a whole field of corn-fodder, and it took him three days to do it. As he was about to leave the house, Mr. Crawford said, "Since you are to work to pay for the book, it is yours, and you can take it home." "No, sir," replied Abe; "the book is mine when I have paid for it. I have not yet done the work." And he would not take it until the task was accomplished. Abe thus endeared himself very much to Mr. Crawford, who felt sure that here was a boy who could be trusted anywhere.

Abe's schoolmates did not love him less than did his teacher. They used to call him their peacemaker; for if any dispute arose among them, Abe could always settle it. If any accident occurred, Abe was always willing to take more than his share of the blame. He was very tender-hearted, too, and could not endure to see pain inflicted upon animals. If he saw his playmates torturing a frog or a fly for sport, as boys sometimes will do, Abe always persuaded them out of it. He often amused his companions by mounting a stump and making speeches to them.

As I have already told you, there were no churches in that region, but occasionally a travelling minister

came among them, and then a meeting was called, and Sunday was observed in the usual manner. Abe had such an excellent memory that when he had once heard a thing he remembered it so correctly as to be able to repeat a great portion of it. Accordingly, the next day after a visit from one of these travelling ministers, Abe would mount a stump, and preach the sermon over again to his playmates almost exactly as it was delivered the day before.

He was a most generous boy, too, and was always willing to deny himself a pleasure for the sake of obliging others.

And another thing: he was *never late at school;* the boys often said that he was the first one on the ground. Abe's term of school with Mr. Crawford amounted to only a few months, so that all the school education he ever had in his life amounted to less than one year. His parents regretted exceedingly that they could not do more for him, but they were very poor and needed his help. But they made great efforts to obtain new books for him. His mother bought the "Life of Henry Clay" for him, which greatly interested him. He admired the character of Henry Clay, and ever after called himself a "Clay Whig." Abe also possessed the "Life of Benjamin Franklin" and "Plutarch's Lives."

While under Mr. Crawford's tuition he advanced in

ABE ON THE STUMP.

arithmetic as far as the rule of three, or simple proportion. After he left school his days were spent in chopping down trees, for he was very skilful with his

axe, and being strong and healthy and large for his age, was able to accomplish almost as much as a man. But his evenings were spent in hard study; he did not mean that what little knowledge he had obtained should rust. When he could no longer have a teacher, it is wonderful how much he was able to accomplish. The neighbors looked upon him as a prodigy, and his parents were very proud of him, as well they might be of a son who was so honest, energetic, persevering, and industrious.

Abe passed his youth in this manner, assisting his father in various kinds of outdoor labor until he was nineteen years of age.

One day about this time a man came to see Mr. Lincoln, and said he should like to hire Abe to go to New Orleans for him on a flat-boat, and that he would give him ten dollars a month.

Abe's eyes sparkled when he heard of this proposition. Ten dollars a month was a great deal of money for him to earn. It looked like a small fortune to him. Besides, he wanted to see something of the world, for he had never been more than a few miles beyond his father's cabin. This man who wished to employ him had a son about Abe's age, and the plan was to have these two boys take a flat-boat loaded with various stores to New Orleans.

Mr. Lincoln told Abe he could go if he chose,

although he would find it very hard work. But as Abe cared no more for hard work than you care for play, he said that was nothing, and he should like to go. So the expedition was decided upon, and Abe seems to have been the captain.

The flat-boat was loaded up, and when all was ready the two boys set off in great glee; but they found that the trip not only caused them some hard work, but was attended with considerable danger, as you shall hear. Their course was to float down the Ohio River into the Mississippi, and then down the Mississippi to New Orleans.

When the weather was pleasant, they had a fine time. They floated as far as they could during the day, and at night pulled the boat up alongside the river's bank and tied it fast; then spreading a blanket upon the deck, they lay down and slept soundly until morning. When they awoke they washed themselves in the river, cooked their breakfast, and pushed off again. But sometimes violent storms would come on, which drenched them to the skin, for they had no cabin, and no roof but the sky. However, they did not mind such trifles, but floated along as gay as birds until they arrived at New Orleans. And here began the danger to which I alluded.

One night they had tied the boat as usual alongside the bank, and were just ready to go to sleep

when Abe heard a slight noise. Arousing his companion, he told him to listen. Presently they descried approaching through the darkness a figure black as night, and directly a stout negro jumped upon the boat. Abe seized a club and beat the fellow off; then another stalwart form and yet another came in sight, until it appeared that a party of seven had come to rob them. Abe made good use of his club, — his only weapon, — and with the help of his companion the robbers were soon put to flight. For greater safety the boat was now untied and pushed out into the middle of the river.

Soon after this event the two lads set out for home with a pocketful of money, — the proceeds of their cargo. In due time they arrived safe among their friends, and were not a little proud of their voyage of eighteen hundred miles in a flat-boat. Abe's employer was highly gratified with the results of the expedition, and told him that he had made excellent bargains and was a capital merchant. Thus Abe's first experience in business was, on the whole, very pleasant. His heart was soon made sad, however, by the death of his sister, which happened one year after her marriage.

CHAPTER IV.

Removal to Illinois. — Incidents of the Journey. — Arrival. — Abe builds a Log-cabin. — Splits Rails. — Goes to seek his Fortune. — The Armstrongs. — Another Trip to New Orleans. — Life in New Salem. — Pursues his Education by Himself.

R. THOMAS LINCOLN now began to contemplate another move. Almost fabulous accounts had reached him of the richness of the prairie lands in Illinois, and he thought he should like to go thither and try his fortune.

There were two other families in the neighborhood who had the same desire, but nothing was fully decided upon until the month of March, in the year 1830; then preparations were made for removal. Abe was now twenty-one years old, and was a most important aid to all concerned. The journey this time was to be performed in an ox-cart. The women, children, and furniture were to be packed into this

clumsy vehicle, drawn by two yoke of oxen, while the men were to walk and drive the team. In this manner they started for Illinois, Abe taking charge of one yoke of oxen.

The journey, which was a very tedious one and sometimes dangerous, occupied two weeks and a day. They came at length to the Kaskaskia River, which had overflowed its banks till the adjoining meadows were several feet under water. The way now looked too dangerous to proceed any farther, and most of the party advised that some other road should be sought. But Abe said it would never do to give it up so; that he was not afraid to be pilot and go ahead, and that if he went under water the rest could turn back. But Abe was not destined to go under water. He pushed boldly on, and was followed by the others. All finally reached dry ground in safety, although for three miles the water came up to the men's waists.

Their destination, which was nearly in the centre of the State, was on the north side of Sangamon River, ten miles west of Decatur, in the County of Macon. Here the party at length arrived. Mr. Lincoln selected ten acres of land for his farm, and with Abe's assistance immediately erected a log-cabin for the family to live in. Then Abe, who was very skilful in the business, split rails enough, with the assist-

ance of John Hanks, to fence in the whole ten acres. These are the *celebrated rails* that have made such a noise in the world. Little did Abe imagine, when splitting them, of the use to which some of them would be put. We shall hear more about them by and by.

Abe remained with his father about a year longer, until he saw him comfortably settled in his new home, and then announced his intention of going away to seek his fortune. Mr. Lincoln could offer no objection to this, for Abe had been a faithful son; yet both he and his wife were very sorry to part with him.

Abe went away to Menard County, near Petersburg, and worked all summer on a farm for a man by the name of Armstrong. This man had a son not far from Abe's age, though he was very far from being as good a young man. In truth, he was a very wild young man. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong quickly saw what a good youth Abe was, and urged him to remain with them, hoping his good influence might be of benefit to their graceless son. Abe accepted their kind invitation, and continued with them during the winter, pursuing his studies by himself. There was no work to be done on the farm during the winter, and Abe could not afford to pay his board in money; but the Armstrongs did not care for that, for they wanted him for his company. And so he had a fine

opportunity for study, and never forgot their kindness. You shall hear by and by how he afterward repaid it.

When spring came, Abe made another expedition to New Orleans on a flat-boat; but this time he built the boat which he used. He was as successful in this trip as he had been in the former one, and upon his return his employer placed him in charge of his mill and store, in a town called New Salem.

Abe became very popular at this place, and the store was a favorite resort; for he was so prompt and exact in all his business dealings that he won the confidence of all. It was at this period that he received the name of "Honest Abe," a title by which he was known through life. Being very agreeable in his manners, and always having some pleasant story to tell, besides being always ready to lend a helping hand to those in trouble, he soon became a universal favorite.

But with all his business cares, Abe never for a moment lost sight of his studies. He procured a grammar, and with the occasional help of a clerk in the store mastered its contents. He found it a pretty difficult study, but that did not discourage him. Every leisure moment during the day found him with his book, and he often studied half the night. This is the way, my children, that Abraham Lincoln got his education.

CHAPTER V.

Black Hawk War. — Mr. Lincoln is nominated for the Legislature, but is defeated. — He buys a Store. — Becomes a Surveyor. — He is chosen to the Legislature. — Decides to become a Lawyer. — A Long Walk. — He is admitted to the Bar. — Trial of Young Armstrong. — Mr. Lincoln's Marriage.

WHILE Mr. Lincoln was living at New Salem, in 1832, — he then being nearly twenty-three years old, — he had his first taste of military life. There had been trouble with the Sacs and other Indians, which finally culminated in what was called the Black Hawk War, named from the distinguished Indian chief Black Hawk.

The Governor of Illinois called for troops, and Abe immediately enlisted. His companions quickly followed his example; and a company was soon formed in New Salem, of which Abe, greatly to his astonishment, was chosen captain.

The company began their march to the seat of war April 27, having enlisted for thirty days. At the expiration of this time Abe re-enlisted as a private for the same period, and when the second term was up

he again re-enlisted, and remained with the regiment until the close of the war. He told his friends after his return that although he had n't seen any live fighting Indians, he had fought a good many bloody battles with mosquitoes.

Abe had not been long at home before a new field of action was opened to him. Some gentlemen called upon him one day and told him that the people wished to nominate him for the Legislature. He announced in a hand-bill, according to the custom of the time, that he would consent to be a candidate.

I fear you will hardly understand this, children, without a little explanation. A body of men meet every year in the capital city of every State in the Union, in a building called the State House, to discuss the interests of the public and to make laws for the people. This body is called the Legislature, and the men composing it are chosen by the people. When a member is to be chosen, several candidates, as they are called, are usually nominated, and every citizen has a right to vote for the man he likes best. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes is elected.

Now, although Abe received a great many votes, he did not have enough to elect him. He was now out of business; so he thought he would try being a mer-

chant. He purchased a store and a stock of goods on credit because he had no money; but he hoped to make enough by and by to pay for them. He was also appointed postmaster.

The store proving very unprofitable, he soon sold out, and turned his attention to surveying, or the measuring of land. Abe had not been taught how to do this; but he bought a book containing the proper instructions, and, with the assistance of a gentleman by the name of John Calhoun, soon understood the matter very well. He bought a compass and chain, and began his new work. This was quite a profitable business, and Abe made a very good living by it. He continued to survey land until the month of August, 1834, when he was again nominated for the Legislature, and this time he was chosen by a large majority.

Very soon after Abe became a member of the Legislature, he made up his mind to begin the study of law. And now I think we must call him Mr. Lincoln, for by this time he had attained the age of twenty-five years; yet he was called "Honest Old Abe" as long as he lived.

As soon as he had decided to become a lawyer, a friend offered to lend him the necessary books. To obtain them, however, he had to walk to Springfield, a distance of twenty-two miles. The journey there and

back again was performed in one day, — a pleasant little walk of forty-four miles. And what is more, he carried in his arms on the homeward trip four heavy law-books. And besides all that, he studied half the way, and on the road learned his first lesson in law. When he got home this lesson was correctly recited to a friend. Thus you will observe his great industry. He could not afford to waste a moment.

He studied so diligently that in about two years, or in 1836, he was fitted to enter upon the practice of the law. The following year he was admitted to the bar, and soon after left New Salem and went to live in Springfield, where he became a partner of the Hon. John T. Stuart, the gentleman who loaned him the law-books.

Mr. Lincoln was elected to the Legislature four times, — first in 1834, as I have told you; then at every succeeding election till 1840.

I hope, children, you have not forgotten Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, who were so kind to Mr. Lincoln the year he went out into the world to seek his fortune; nor how I told you that he was able afterwards to return their kindness. It happened in this way. The character of Mr. Armstrong's son did not improve. He continued to be a great sorrow to his parents while they both lived. His father was now dead, and he was no comfort to his mother. One

night he went to a camp-meeting. There were several fellows present as bad as himself, and some much worse, who had not come for a religious purpose, but to make fun and disturb the meeting. They behaved so badly that by and by the affair ended in a riot, and a man was killed.

The murder was charged to this young Armstrong, who was immediately arrested and carried off to jail to await his trial. His mother, poor woman! was now in great distress. She knew her son was bad, but she did not believe that he would commit murder; besides, he was the only one she had in all the world to depend upon. It was a sad case. The poor widow could not afford to pay a lawyer to examine the evidence and see if there was any chance for her son's acquittal. She expected that he would be condemned to die. But one day, when things were at the darkest, she received a very unexpected letter, which ran thus:

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, September, 18—.

DEAR MRS. ARMSTRONG, — I have just heard of your deep affliction, and the arrest of your son for murder. I can hardly believe that he can be guilty of the crime alleged against him. It does not seem possible. I am anxious that he should have a fair trial, at any rate; and gratitude for your long-continued kindness to me in adverse circumstances prompts me to offer my humble services gratuitously in his behalf. It will afford me an opportunity to requite, in a

small degree, the favors I received at your hand, and that of your lamented husband, when your roof afforded me grateful shelter, without money and without price.

Yours truly,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

This noble letter lifted a great weight from Mrs. Armstrong's heart. She felt as if God had sent it in answer to her prayers, and that her son would yet be found innocent. The day for trial came, and the evidence brought against this young man appeared so strong that it did not seem as if there could be a ray of hope for him. Mr. Lincoln sat quietly and listened to every word. When all the evidence had been given in, he arose and reviewed the whole testimony.

One witness had said that when the murder was committed the moon was shining brightly, and he saw the prisoner inflict the death-blow.

Mr. Lincoln turned to the jurymen and said: "Gentlemen of the jury, this witness states that upon a certain hour of a certain evening the murder was committed, and, the moon shining brightly at the time, he saw the prisoner inflict the death-wound. Now, gentlemen of the jury, by consulting your almanacs you will find that the moon had not yet risen at the hour of the evening on which witness states that he saw it shining brightly. Thus he has perjured himself, and his testimony is good for nothing."

Mr. Lincoln's whole plea for young Armstrong was so touching that it drew tears from many eyes, and so convincing that before he had finished all felt sure that the prisoner was innocent. It was nearly night when Mr. Lincoln concluded with these words: "If justice is done, as I believe it will be, before the sun shall set it will shine upon my client a free man."

The jury retired, and at the expiration of half an hour returned with the verdict, "Not guilty."

The poor widow dropped into the arms of her son, who, tenderly supporting her, told her to behold him free and innocent. Then crying out, "Where is Mr. Lincoln?" he rushed across the court-room and grasped his deliverer's hand without uttering a word; his emotion was so great that he could not speak. Mr. Lincoln pointed to the west and said, "It is not yet sundown, and *you are free.*"

Mr. Lincoln now practised law for several years, and soon became eminent in his profession. Since coming to Springfield he had lived in the family of his friend, Hon. William Butler; but at length he resolved to take unto himself a wife and have a home of his own.

Accordingly, on the 4th of November, in the year 1842, he was married to Miss Mary Todd, daughter of Hon. Robert S. Todd, of Lexington, Kentucky.

CHAPTER VI.

Explanation of the United States Government. — Presidential Campaign of 1844. — Lincoln is chosen Representative to Congress. — Annexation of Texas. — The Mexican War. — The Wilmot Proviso. — The Tariff.

MR. LINCOLN did not allow the attractions of his home or the duties of his profession to absorb all his attention. He never neglected political matters, and was one of the leading members of the Whig party in Illinois. In 1840 and also in 1847 he was their candidate for Presidential Elector.

Now, that you may understand exactly what this means, and also all that I am going to tell you about Mr. Lincoln's public life, I think I must explain to you, in the first place, how these United States are governed.

Each State, as I have already told you, has a government of its own, which is vested in its Legislature; and all the States together make the United States. Now, in order that these States may always remain *United* States, and form one great and noble country, instead

of a great many small and independent countries, you will see that all the States must be governed by some general laws. For this purpose, a good many years ago, when this nation was in its infancy, some wise men from several different States met together, and after thinking about the matter a great deal, and talking it over very carefully a great many times, they at length drew up a very remarkable and wonderful paper called the Constitution of the United States. After a while all the different States agreed to adopt it; that is, they promised to obey what it said.

This paper, or Constitution, said that the government of the United States should consist of three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

The legislative power — that is, the power by which the laws of the country are made — is vested in a body of men called Congress. Congress consists of two houses, — the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Senate is formed as follows: The Legislature of each State in the Union can select any two men who are properly qualified as the Senators of their own State. These Senators are chosen for six years; but the matter is so arranged that one third of the whole body of Senators goes out of office every two years. Thus every State in the Union, however small, has two Senators in Congress.

The House of Representatives is formed somewhat differently. The people of each State choose a certain number of men to be the representatives of their own State. The precise number to be chosen depends upon the number of inhabitants. But all the States together can send at present (1905) three hundred and eighty-six Representatives. These are chosen for two years. Thus Congress now consists of twice as many Senators as there are States, and three hundred and eighty-six Representatives; and every State, however small, can send at least one Representative.

Now, this great body of men must have some one person for a head. Every ship must have a captain, and the ship of State must have its captain too, or it would not sail very smoothly. This head man is called the President of the United States, and in him is vested the executive branch of the Government. Captains usually have lieutenants; and the President's lieutenant is the Vice-President, who stands ready to take the President's place in case he is unable to attend to his duties himself.

The Constitution directs that the President and the Vice-President be chosen in the following manner. Once in every four years the people in each State choose as many men as they have Senators and Representatives counted together. These men are called

Presidential Electors, because they elect or choose the President.

These Electors meet at a certain time in their respective States, and vote for the President and the Vice-President. The name of the man they vote for is written down on a piece of paper, put into an envelope, sealed up, and sent to Congress. These envelopes are opened and the votes counted in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The man who has received a majority of the electoral votes becomes the President. The Vice-President is chosen in the same manner.

Thus you see that every man in the United States who is capable of voting has something to do and to say about who shall govern him.

But you may think that the people do not really choose the President and the Vice-President, — that the Electors choose them. Now, although this is true in one sense, yet it is just as true that the people choose them. You must remember that the people choose the Electors, and the Electors know whom the people that have chosen them wish and expect them to vote for; so they vote as the people wish.

The nation is usually divided into two great political parties, though sometimes there have been more than two. Both parties desire the good of the people, and wish to choose those men for rulers who

will, they think, do the nation the most good. But these two parties do not think exactly alike as to what will be for the good of the nation. Sometimes their views are very different indeed; but each party tells what it does think, so that every man can judge for himself, and join whichever party he prefers.

Now, each of these political parties agrees upon some particular man as its candidate for President, and then each party chooses its own Electors, so that the people know definitely for whom the Electors will vote.

We left Mr. Lincoln as Whig candidate for Presidential Elector. At that time the two great political parties were called Whigs and Democrats.

In the year 1844 the Whig party desired to have Henry Clay for President. Mr. Lincoln was a great admirer of Mr. Clay. You will recollect that one of the favorite books of his boyhood was the life of that great statesman. After Mr. Lincoln became a man, he continued to like Mr. Clay just as much as before, and thought nobody in the United States would make as good a President as Mr. Clay.

Some months before a President is to be chosen the whole country is in a state of great excitement. Each political party holds a national convention, and nominates its candidate for the Presidency. Politicians go about in the different States, making

speeches in praise of their favorite candidates, and there are torchlight processions and bands of music, and all sorts of things are done to arouse the people. This is called the Presidential campaign. So in the Presidential campaign of 1844 Mr. Lincoln went all over the State of Illinois, making speeches in praise of Henry Clay.

In the same year the Democrats nominated James K. Polk as their candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Polk was elected instead of Mr. Clay, because he received the greatest number of electoral votes; and on the 4th of March, 1845, he was inaugurated President of these United States.

The next year after this the Whig party of Illinois chose Mr. Lincoln as their Representative to Congress. Illinois sent seven Representatives that year; but Mr. Lincoln was the only Whig among them, the rest being Democrats.

Mr. Lincoln took his seat in Congress on the first Monday in December, 1847. At this period some questions of great importance were before the Government, and some of them seemed very difficult indeed to settle. The Senators and Representatives in their respective houses had some most exciting and stormy discussions. Mr. Lincoln's voice was frequently heard, and he always voted for or against every measure that was under consideration.

From time to time since the United States first became a nation new States have been admitted into the Union. Just before Mr. Polk was inaugurated Congress had decided to admit Texas, which before this had been an independent republic. The Texans were for the most part very glad of this, for they were so poor they could not pay their debts; and besides, Mexico was always quarrelling with them, and they had found it difficult to sustain an independent government. They were only too glad, therefore, to be under the protection and make a part of so powerful a nation as the United States.

On the other hand, a great many persons in the United States did not approve of this measure. They thought we already had territory enough without adding any more. Besides, they knew that if Texas were admitted she would come into the Union as a slave State; and they thought it would be a great misfortune to have such an accession to the slave-power. These persons considered slavery a great evil, and thought it would be much better if there were not a single slave in the United States.

But there were others who thought slavery right; and again, there were others who, if they did not think it exactly right, argued that it would be best for the country not to have any noise or excitement about the matter, and if another slave State desired

to enter the Union, why, let her come. So there was a great difference of opinion, and the annexation of Texas was talked about a great while before it was finally decided upon.

Mr. Lincoln was, from the first, very much opposed to it and voted against it. He always thought slavery was wrong, and did not want to have its power increased.

Pretty soon after Texas was admitted into the Union, a war broke out with Mexico. It was called the Mexican War. As I have already told you, the Mexicans and Texans were always quarrelling. One of the things they disputed about was this: The Texans contended that their territory extended as far as the Rio Grande River, while the Mexicans said that the Rio Grande belonged to them, and the Texans had no right to any country beyond the river Nueces.

By looking on the map of North America, children, you will see that Mexico and Texas join each other; you will see, too, that quite a space of country lies between the rivers Rio Grande and Nueces. Of course, some boundary-line must be decided upon as separating the two countries; the Mexicans said, "It must be the Nueces:" and the Texans said, "No, it must be the Rio Grande." President Polk thought the Rio Grande was the proper dividing-line, and

accordingly sent a body of United States troops, under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor, to a town near the mouth of the Nueces, called Corpus Christi, to repel the Mexicans, in case they invaded our own soil, as he called it, — that is, the disputed country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande.

General Taylor remained at his post several months, and then received orders to advance with his army toward the Rio Grande. On the 8th of March, 1846, he began to move, and on the 28th of the same month arrived at the banks of the river, opposite the town of Matamoras, and began to build a fort which he called Fort Brown. Upon this the Mexicans began to throw up batteries and redoubts. Some time in April a slight collision occurred between the army of General Taylor and that of the Mexicans, under General Arista.

When this news reached Washington, President Polk issued a special message to Congress, declaring that war existed by the act of Mexico, — that the Mexican Government had at last invaded our territory, and shed the blood of our citizens on our own soil, — and asked for men and money to prosecute the war. His request was granted. But although Congress approved of what President Polk had done, a great many persons in the United States did not approve of it. They thought the question of the disputed

territory might have been settled in some other way, and some of them did not think this disputed ground ever belonged to Texas; they did not consider that the Mexicans had shed the blood of our citizens on our own soil, but that the soil in question belonged to Mexico, and that we were the invaders.

Mr. Lincoln was one of those who held this opinion. But although he voted against the war, and said he did not think it was righteously begun by the President, still he always voted for any appropriation which Congress desired to make to pay the soldiers who went to the war.

The United States troops fought the Mexicans with great vigor until, after a series of battles, our forces entered the City of Mexico, and planted the American flag on the top of the national palace. The Mexicans were now obliged to admit that we had beaten them, and said they were willing to come to terms with the United States. Accordingly, a treaty was made, and on the 4th of July, 1848, peace was proclaimed by President Polk.

By the terms of this treaty, Mexico gave up all claim to the disputed territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, and also ceded to the United States the whole of New Mexico and California. In return for this territory, the United States gave to

Mexico fifteen millions of dollars, and paid some of her debts, which amounted to about three and a half millions more.

And now there was a great contention in Congress as to whether slavery should be allowed to exist in this new territory acquired from Mexico. In the session of Congress immediately preceding the one of which Mr. Lincoln was a member, a certain Mr. Wilmot, a Representative from Pennsylvania, offered an amendment to a bill which was under consideration to enable President Polk to negotiate a peace with Mexico.

The substance of the amendment was this: that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any of the Territories acquired by or annexed to the United States, by virtue of the appropriations of this bill, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.

This was the famous Wilmot Proviso; and although it may not seem very interesting to you, my children, I hope you will try to understand it, because it created a great excitement all over the country. When Mr. Lincoln entered Congress, the subject was still under discussion, and he was so much in favor of its adoption that he voted for it forty-two times. The measure never became a law, because both Houses of Congress could not agree; but it roused all over the

United States a feeling which had never existed before.

Previous to this many persons who were opposed to slavery had feared the slaveholding States would become more powerful than the free States, and that slavery would yet spread all over the Union. These persons were much disappointed with the result of the Wilmot Proviso, and some of them began to be alarmed at the prospect of having slavery introduced into the Territories. Mr. Lincoln was one of these persons; and this was why he voted so many times in favor of the Wilmot amendment.

Another question before Congress at this time was whether slavery should be abolished in the District of Columbia. Mr. Lincoln believed that Congress possessed the power to do this, and he voted in favor of it; but he desired that masters should be paid for their slaves out of the United States Treasury. But the majority of Congressmen at that time were very much opposed to holding any discussion on the subject of slavery, and so nothing was accomplished in regard to freeing any of the slaves.

Mr. Lincoln also voted to appropriate money for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and to sell the public lands at a very low rate to the people who wished to occupy and cultivate them. He was also in favor of a protective tariff.

Now, children, I suppose I must tell you what a tariff is, or you will not know what Mr. Lincoln voted for.

From time to time the Government has passed laws that certain sums of money shall be paid on certain kinds of goods brought into the United States. These sums of money are called duties, and are paid into the Treasury of the United States for the support of the Government. The tariff is a list of the goods on which the duties are to be paid, and also of the duties themselves. Mr. Lincoln thought these duties should be so regulated that an article made in a foreign country could not be brought to this country and sold at a lower price than the same article could be sold at if made here. He believed that unless this were done our own manufacturers would be injured, because everybody would buy foreign articles instead of our own.

This is called the protective tariff, because it protects our own manufactures; and Mr. Lincoln voted for it to encourage industry and promote the well-being of our own country.

CHAPTER VII.

General Taylor elected President. — Lincoln practises his Profession. — Takes the Political Field in 1854. — Repeal of the Missouri Compromise. — Judge Trumbull elected Senator.

N the first day of June, 1848, the Whig party held a national convention at Philadelphia to nominate their candidate for the next Presidency; for the time had come for a new Presidential campaign. The Whigs of Illinois sent Mr. Lincoln as a delegate to this Convention. After much discussion the Convention nominated Gen. Zachary Taylor; and Mr. Lincoln, upon his return home, made many speeches in praise of General Taylor, who, you will remember, was in the Mexican War. General Taylor was elected President, and was inaugurated on Monday, March 5 (the 4th coming on Sunday), 1849.

The same year the Whig portion of the Legislature of Illinois desired to send Mr. Lincoln as their Senator to Washington; but as there were more Democrats than Whigs in the Legislature, he was not chosen. General Shields, the Democratic candidate, was sent instead. During the next five years, which was a period of great excitement, Mr. Lincoln did not take an active part in the affairs of the nation; but you may be sure he was none the less interested, and knew all about the doings of Congress as much as if he were there. He practised his profession of law quietly at his home in Springfield, Illinois, until the year 1854. Franklin Pierce was now President, having been inaugurated March 4, 1853.

Some time during the following January, Stephen A. Douglas, who was then a United States Senator from Illinois, and was chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories, introduced a very extraordinary bill in Congress, which set the country half crazy with excitement. This bill proposed that two Territories, to be called Kansas and Nebraska, should be organized west of the State of Missouri and north of the parallel of 36° 30′ north latitude, and that slavery should be admitted into these Territories. Now the cause of the excitement was this:

As long ago as when Mr. Monroe was President, slavery was the cause of a great deal of contention

LINCOLN'S FIRST LESSON IN LAW. (See page 54.)

and dispute. At that time Missouri wanted to enter the Union as a slave State. The Senate said yes, but the House of Representatives would not consent unless she prohibited slavery. Speeches upon speeches were made, and vote after vote was taken in both houses, but it was a long time before they could come to any agreement. At length it was decided to admit Missouri as a slave State, with the provision that in all the remaining Territories of the United States north of latitude 36° 30′ slavery should be forever prohibited. This was called the Missouri Compromise, and it came to be regarded as sacred as the Constitution itself.

So, when Mr. Douglas proposed to repeal and set aside what nobody before had ever thought of meddling with, it was looked upon as a most astonishing and daring measure. There was a tremendous debate in Congress over this bill. But Mr. Douglas worked away, until at last he carried his point, and the bill became a law.

Thus the famous Missouri Compromise was repealed. Almost all the Northern people now began to feel as if matters were coming to a serious crisis, and that some determined movement must be made to check the extension of slavery.

Mr. Lincoln was very indignant at the passage of this bill, and thought it was time to give his attention

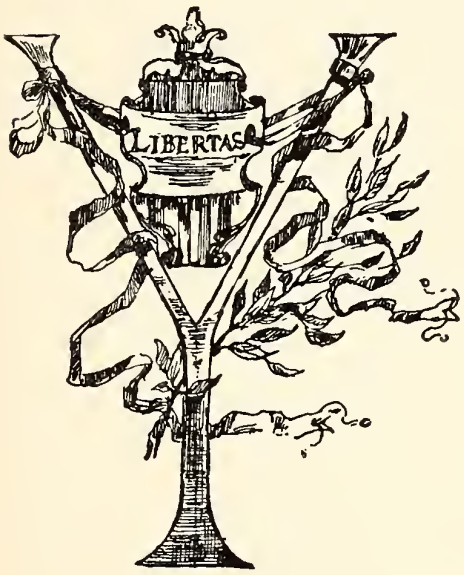
again to political matters. Illinois was to send a new Senator to Congress in place of General Shields, whose term had expired.

Now, the Legislature which was to choose the new Senator from Illinois had not yet been elected. So Mr. Lincoln begged the people of his State to choose such a Legislature as would send a Senator to Congress who would frown upon Mr. Douglas's measures. Mr. Douglas, on the other hand, told the people that his measures were all right, and that Congress had no power to make a law that slavery should not exist in a certain portion of the United States. Thus the people listened to Mr. Lincoln one day, and to Mr. Douglas another day.

The outcome was the election of Judge Trumbull for Senator, a man much opposed to Mr. Douglas's bill. A great part of the Legislature would have preferred Mr. Lincoln to anybody else; but Mr. Lincoln himself thought it would be better to send Judge Trumbull, and it was through his influence that the Judge was nominated. After this, many people in Illinois wanted to choose Mr. Lincoln as Governor of the State; but he did not wish to be nominated.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Republican Party. — The Presidential Campaign of 1856. — Buchanan's Election. — Kansas. — The Dred Scott Decision.



YOU will recollect, children, how I told you a little while ago that the great political parties of the United States have at different times been called by different names. When Mr. Lincoln entered public life, they were known as Whigs and Democrats. They had borne these names many years.

But as the portion of the people who were in favor of slavery grew bolder and bolder in their efforts to extend it, nearly all the Whig party and some of the Democrats thought they would unite and form themselves into a new party, and come out openly and say that they would not vote for any measures which would help to extend slavery. They did not wish to

meddle with any of the States which were already slave States, but determined to do all they could to prevent any more slave States from being formed. This new party styled itself the Republican party, and has been called by that name ever since. Mr. Lincoln joined the Republicans.

In the Presidential campaign of 1856 the Republicans held their national convention at Philadelphia, and on the 17th of June nominated as their candidate for President John C. Fremont, and for Vice President William L. Dayton. Mr. Lincoln also received a good many votes for Vice President, but not as many as Mr. Dayton. The Republicans of Illinois chose Mr. Lincoln for Presidential Elector, and he tried very hard to secure Mr. Fremont's election.

The Democrats also held their convention in June, in the city of Cincinnati, and nominated James Buchanan for President, and John C. Breckinridge for Vice President. The political contest this year was most exciting. The Republicans struggled very hard to elect their candidate; but their party was new, and had not yet become as strong as the Democratic party. So the Democrats prevailed; James Buchanan was chosen President, and was inaugurated on the 4th of March, 1857. At this time there was great excitement all over the Union about the question of slavery in the Territory of Kansas.

You will remember that Mr. Douglas introduced his bill for the admission of slavery into this Territory in the month of January, 1854; but it did not become a law until the following May. About a month before the passage by Congress of this extraordinary measure, the Legislature of Massachusetts had formed a society called the Emigrants' Aid Company, for the purpose of assisting poor persons who desired to remove to Kansas. Soon after, the Legislature of Connecticut organized a similar company, and quite an excitement was kindled in the Northern States about going to Kansas. Many people went because they could go at so cheap a rate.

Previous to this, some people had gone there from the Western States, and a few from the slave States. A party of thirty men founded the town of Lawrence. About this time settlers from Missouri began to come in, bringing their slaves with them. This they had a right to do by the new law which had just been passed; but the settlers from the free States did not like it at all, and notwithstanding the law, determined to exclude slavery from Kansas. They could not do this while Kansas remained a Territory, but they resolved that whenever it became a State it should be a free State.

On the other hand the Missouri settlers meant to make it a slave State. In the month of July, in this

same year, a body of public men in Missouri had openly declared that in order to do this they were ready to help remove all citizens from Kansas who went there under the auspices of Northern Emigrant Aid Societies. About this time President Pierce appointed Andrew H. Reeder of Pennsylvania Governor of Kansas. Mr. Reeder arrived in Kansas on the 6th of October.

The President appoints the Governors of the Territories, but the people have a right to form a Territorial Legislature and send one man to Congress, though he is neither a Senator nor a Representative. He is called a Delegate, and can go to Congress and talk about his Territory as much as he pleases, but is not allowed to vote.

The next month after the arrival of Governor Reeder, while the people of Kansas were assembled to elect a Territorial Delegate to Congress, a body of ruffians from Missouri marched in and took possession of all the votes. A few months after this the people attempted to elect a Territorial Legislature, but were treated in the same manner as before. Governor Reeder tried to put a stop to such disgraceful proceedings, and he went to Washington and told the President about it; but all he got for his trouble was his removal from office.

As soon as Governor Reeder was removed the

people in Kansas who were in favor of slavery behaved worse than ever. They took their seats in the Legislature, and passed laws to imprison everybody who should help a slave to escape, or should say that it was wrong to hold slaves. Worse laws even than these were passed. Mr. Shannon of Ohio was the next Governor. Soon after his appointment the free-State men made another effort to secure their rights. They held a convention and said they would not obey such laws as the slavery Legislature had made, and they chose ex-Governor Reeder as their Delegate to Congress. They also decided to form a State Constitution and prohibit slavery.

A convention met for this purpose at a town called Topeka. By this time the slavery party was very much enraged, and the people began to fight. Several persons were killed on both sides. The inhabitants of Lawrence began to arm themselves in self-defence, and the Governor called out the militia.

Upon this the Missouri ruffians said they were the Kansas militia, and for several days Lawrence was besieged; but finally matters were quieted for a little while, and the Missourians went home. Soon, however, Lawrence was again threatened, and made resistance, but as the sheriff promised safety and protection to the citizens, they delivered up their arms. They had no sooner done this, however, than

the besiegers entered the town, burned the house of Mr. Robinson, — one of the founders of Lawrence, — blew up the hotel, destroyed the printing-presses, and went about making general havoc. The free-State party now declared war against the slavery faction. There were several fights, and many persons were killed.

Matters continued pretty much in this condition until Jan. 6, 1857; but Governor Shannon had been removed for favoring the free-State men, and Mr. Geary of Pennsylvania now held the office. At this time the free-State Legislature, elected under the Topeka Constitution, met at that place; but the leading members were immediately arrested by the United States marshals. Directly after this the slavery party met at Lecompton, and passed an act to have a convention called which should form a constitution for the State of Kansas. This slavery party styled itself the Territorial Legislature. In this act the members were encouraged by President Pierce, who said that the formation of the free-State Government was an act of rebellion. Governor Geary now became so disgusted with the situation that he resigned; and Mr. Walker of Mississippi succeeded him. It was about this time that Mr. Buchanan was inaugurated President.

When Governor Walker had been in office some

months, the convention met at Lecompton and formed their famous Constitution, four sections of which related to slavery. The people were informed that they could vote for the Constitution with slavery, or for the Constitution without slavery, but in any case they must vote for the Constitution.

These proceedings created a tremendous excitement in Kansas, and the free-State party declared they would have nothing to do with the Constitution. Governor Walker was as much displeased with it as the people were, and went to Washington to beg Congress not to adopt it; but before he arrived President Buchanan had sanctioned it, and so Governor Walker resigned. The struggle between the free-State men and the slavery party was now at its height in Kansas.

We must now turn aside a little from our present subject, in order that you may understand something which I am about to relate. You will remember that I told you the government consists of three branches. You already understand about two of them, the legislative and the executive; and now the time has come when we must speak of the third branch, — the judicial department of government.

This branch comprises, besides inferior courts, a Supreme Court with one chief-justice and eight associate justices, who are appointed by the President

for life. Roger Brooke Taney was Chief-Justice at this time; and a decision of his in the Supreme Court shook the country to its very centre. It was called the Dred Scott Decision.

This Dred Scott was a negro slave owned by a man in Missouri. The master removed him to Illinois, a free State; and therefore the slave thought that this made him free. But the Chief-Justice decided that he had lost whatever claim to freedom he had gained by living in Illinois, because after having removed to Wisconsin, he finally returned to Missouri. One of the reasons he gave for this decision was that the negro had no rights which the white man was bound to respect, and another was that the Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery in the Territories north of 36° 30′, was unconstitutional.

When this decision was announced, the slavery party in Kansas thought their victory was certain; but the free-State men, in spite of the decision, determined not to yield.

Mr. Lincoln's soul was on fire for freedom; he was shocked at the Dred Scott Decision, and the oppression of the people in Kansas. He expected the next decision of the Supreme Court would be that the Constitution permitted slavery in all the States, as well as in the Territories; then there would be no freedom anywhere for the slave. Therefore he thought all

lovers of freedom ought to express the most intense disapprobation of the Dred Scott Decision. It was in the November following this decision that the slavery party in Kansas had adopted the infamous Lecompton Constitution.

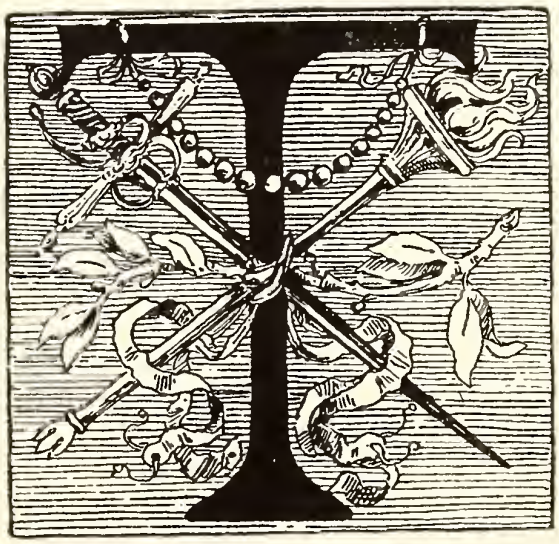
Congress assembled soon after, when President Buchanan stated his opinion on the subject. He said everybody must see that in the end Kansas would be free, and he thought the best way to settle the dispute would be to admit her with the Lecompton Constitution; then the South would have no reason to complain, and if the State were free, the North ought not to grumble about the Constitution.

But the free-State people in Kansas thought that this was only an ingenious dodge to fasten slavery upon them, and that if they adopted the Lecompton Constitution the game would be up, and there would be no more freedom for them.

The worst part of the matter was that the people were not allowed to read the Constitution, and so did not know what they were required to vote for.

CHAPTER IX.

Speeches of Lincoln and Douglas. — Lincoln visits Kansas, Ohio, and New York. — Speech at Cooper Institute. — At Five Points.



HE time had now arrived for the Legislature of Illinois to choose a new Senator. Mr. Douglas's term had nearly expired. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas were the leading men of their respective parties in Illinois, and it was probable that one of them would be chosen.

Their views were as opposite as light and darkness. Mr. Lincoln opposed the extension of slavery. He was shocked at the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the consequent oppression of the people in Kansas, and was indignant at the Dred Scott Decision. Mr. Douglas, on the other hand, was the

author of the bill repealing the Missouri Compromise, and approved of the Dred Scott Decision; but he did not think it was right that the Lecompton Constitution should be forced upon the citizens of Kansas. He said he did not care whether slavery was voted down or up, but he thought the people had a right to vote against the Constitution if they chose. In this expression of his opinion he offended President Buchanan and others favoring slavery.

Mr. Douglas went home to Illinois before the time came to elect the new Senator; and he and Mr. Lincoln went all over the State, making speeches in support of their favorite views. Mr. Douglas would make a speech, and then Mr. Lincoln would answer him. They each made a great many speeches, but there were seven that were called joint debates. These were held at seven different towns in seven different parts of the State, from the extreme north to the extreme south. These debates created the greatest enthusiasm. Each party turned out to do honor to its own man. There were gay cavalcades, ringing of bells, firing of guns, bands of music, big processions, and a great time generally.

In so small a book as this it is impossible to say much about the speeches; but we will quote a few short extracts from some of Mr. Lincoln's, because they illustrate his principles and character, and

show us that his convictions were substantially the same throughout his public life. Some persons have accused him of being vacillating and weak, but we think it would be difficult to find an historical personage less changeable than he. In the beginning of one of his speeches are these remarkable words: —

"'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved, I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

You will observe, children, how clear-sighted Mr. Lincoln was. These words sound like those of a prophet, for in less than seven years from the time they were uttered, this country had become all one thing, — *all free*, — and owing in a very great degree to the skilful administration of this very man.

Mr. Lincoln thought the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which admitted slavery into all the Territories, and the Dred Scott Decision, and the forcing of the Lecompton Constitution upon the people of Kansas, were all parts of one great political machine, or mill, as he calls it, and that all the different framers of these measures understood one another very well, and had one common end in view. So in the

speech from which we have just quoted, he goes on to say: —

"We cannot absolutely know that all these exact adaptations are the result of preconcert. But when we see a lot of framed timbers, different portions of which we know have been gotten out at different times and places and by different workmen (Stephen, Franklin, Roger, and James, for instance), and when we see these timbers joined together, and see they exactly make the frame of a house or a mill, — all the tenons and mortises exactly fitting, and all the lengths and proportions of the different pieces exactly adapted to their respective places, and not a piece too many or too few (not omitting even scaffolding), or if a single piece be lacking, we see the place in the frame exactly fitted and prepared yet to bring such piece in, — in such a case we find it impossible not to believe that Stephen and Franklin and Roger and James all understood one another from the beginning, and all worked upon a common plan, or draft, drawn up before the first blow was struck."

Mr. Lincoln thought that this political mill had been most skilfully built, and that if it were not torn down it would grind not only the negro, but the whole nation, to powder.

In another speech, referring to the thirteen original colonies, he said: —

"These communities, by their representatives in old Independence Hall, said to the world of men: 'We hold these

truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' This was their lofty and wise and noble understanding of the justice of the Creator to his creatures: yes, gentlemen, to all his creatures, — to the whole great family of man. In their enlightened belief, nothing stamped with the Divine image and likeness was sent into the world to be trodden on and degraded and imbruted by its fellows. They grasped not only the race of men then living, but they reached forward and seized upon the farthest posterity. They created a beacon to guide their children and their children's children, and the countless myriads who should inhabit the earth in other ages.

"Wise statesmen as they were, they knew the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants; and so they established these great self-evident truths, that when, in the distant future, some man, some faction, some interest should set up the doctrine that none but rich men, or none but white men, or none but Anglo-Saxon white men, were entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, their posterity might look up again to the Declaration of Independence, and take courage to renew the battle which their fathers began, so that truth and justice and mercy, and all the humane and Christian virtues, might not be extinguished from the land; so that no man would hereafter dare to limit and circumscribe the great principles on which the temple of Liberty was being built.

"Now, my countrymen, if you have been taught doctrines conflicting with the great landmarks of the Declaration of

Independence; if you have listened to suggestions which would take away from its grandeur, and mutilate the fair symmetry of its proportions; if you have been inclined to believe that all men are not created equal, in those inalienable rights enumerated by our chart of liberty, — let me entreat you to come back. Return to the fountain whose waters spring close by the blood of the Revolution.

"Think nothing of me; take no thought for the political fate of any man whomsoever; but come back to the truths that are in the Declaration of Independence. You may do anything with me you choose, if you will but heed these sacred principles. You may not only defeat me for the Senate, but you may take me and put me to death. While pretending no indifference to earthly honors, I *do claim* to be actuated in this contest by something higher than an anxiety for office. I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's success. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. But do not destroy that immortal emblem of humanity, the Declaration of American Independence."

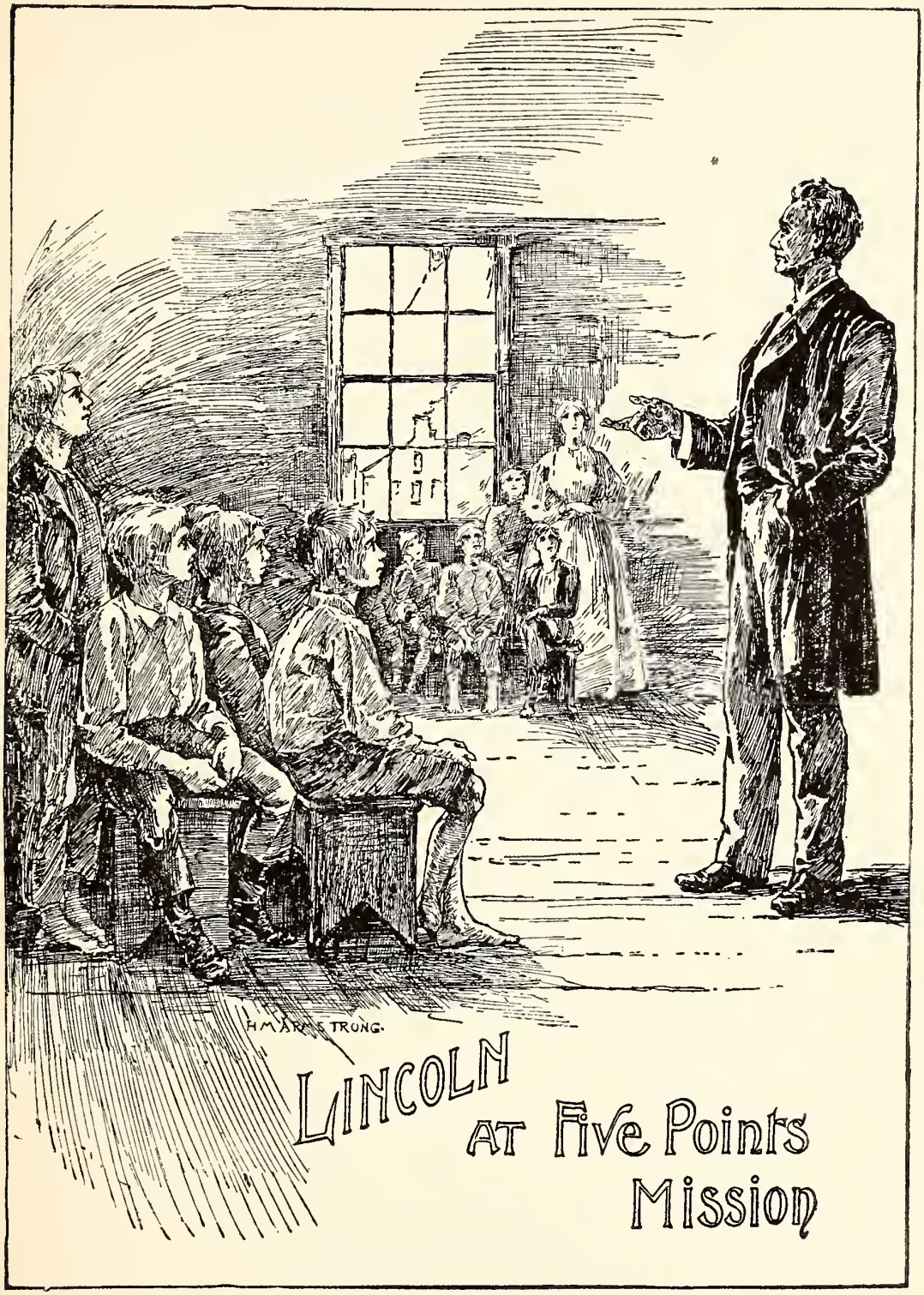
These are Mr. Lincoln's own words. How nobly he speaks! Even then he had the spirit of a martyr. He was willing to be put to death, if only the cause of liberty might prevail. And you know that at last he did suffer death for maintaining at every cost these very principles which he here so nobly advocates. Glorious martyr! Let us try to imitate his noble and unselfish spirit.

The excitement during all this political contest was tremendous, not only in Illinois, but all over the country. All lovers of freedom ardently wished that Mr. Lincoln might be chosen Senator, for they thought the nation was in great peril and needed such men in Congress. The opposite party proved the stronger, however, and Mr. Douglas was once more elected to the Senate.

Between the close of this senatorial contest and the Presidential campaign of 1860, Mr. Lincoln made several visits to other States. He went to Kansas, whose people received him with the greatest enthusiasm. They hardly knew how to express their joy at seeing the man who had labored so hard to defend their rights. Mr. Lincoln also addressed the people of Ohio, and in the month of February he visited New York, and made a speech to the young men at Cooper Institute.

As this speech is one of the most celebrated productions of the great man, you shall have a few of its sentences: —

"Wrong as we think slavery is, we can yet afford to let it alone where it is, because that much is due to the necessity arising from its actual presence in the nation; but can we, while our votes will prevent it, allow it to spread into the national Territories, and to overrun us here in these free States? If our sense of duty forbids this, then let us stand


H.M. ARMSTRONG.
LINCOLN
AT Five Points
Mission

by our duty fearlessly and effectively. Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us, nor frightened from it by menaces of destruction to the government nor of dungeons to ourselves. *Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.*"

Yes, he did dare to do his duty faithfully and fearlessly to the end. He was never frightened by threats; neither was he dismayed nor disheartened, even when he was most thickly beset with dangers. He calmly waited, and trusted in the darkest hours, with that sublime faith which he here proclaims, *that right makes might;* and when the nation's future was almost hopeless, he said, —

"I still hope that in some way, which man cannot see, all will be well in the end, because our cause is just, and God is on our side."

In this beautiful and simple trust he clung to God and to his promises, in the same way that you, children, confide in your parents; and God did not disappoint him, any more than your parents disappoint you when they have made you a promise.

Mr. Lincoln loved children, and when he was in New York he did not forget them. One Sunday he visited the school at the Five Points. This school is composed of the most miserable and wretched children of New York City, who are here taught how to

become good and respectable. Mr. Lincoln spoke kind words to them; and the children were so much interested that whenever he attempted to stop they would all shout, "Oh, do go on! do go on!" Nobody in the school knew who he was; but just as he was leaving, one of the teachers stepped up to him and begged to know his name. He simply said: "It is Abraham Lincoln, from Illinois."

How every one of those children must have treasured up what he said to them that day, and when they grew up they doubtless told their own children how on a certain day the great Abraham Lincoln spoke to them! Nobody knew then how great he was to become.

CHAPTER X.

The Presidential Campaign of 1860. — The Republican Convention at Chicago. — Lincoln elected President.

A NEW presidential campaign was approaching, and people began to talk of choosing Mr. Lincoln for President. The Republicans of Illinois held a convention at Decatur; and all at once, right in the midst of the meeting, a gentleman, who had been a Democrat a great many years, came marching in with two old weather-stained fence-rails, all trimmed up with ribbons and flags, and with a banner bearing this inscription: —

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

THE RAIL CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN 1860.

Two rails, from a lot of 3000, made in 1830, by
John Hanks and Abe Lincoln, whose
father was the first pioneer
of Macon County."

Upon this the meeting raised a tremendous shout, and began cheering for "Lincoln," "Abe Lincoln,

the rail-splitter," "Honest Old Abe," and called upon him to make his appearance. Mr. Lincoln arose, and with great modesty stated that he had helped to split some rails about thirty years before, when somebody shouted out, "These are some of the rails." After this the rails were in such demand that one would suppose the poor old fence must have been all carried away, for they were borne in processions all over the Union.

This meeting was only a State convention; but the Republicans held their national convention, to nominate their candidate for the next Presidency, at Chicago, on the 16th of May, 1860.

The people of that city had erected an immense structure for the occasion, called "The Wigwam." Delegates from all the States assembled here, to the number of four hundred and sixty-five. Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward were the two prominent candidates.

On the first ballot — that is, the first time the convention voted — Mr. Seward had one hundred and seventy-three and a half votes, Mr. Lincoln one hundred and two, and the rest were scattering, — that is, divided among different persons. Nobody was nominated on this vote, because nobody had a majority of all the votes; so they voted again.

On the second ballot, when Vermont's name was called, one of her delegates replied: "Vermont casts

her ten votes for the young giant of the West, Abraham Lincoln." Mr. Seward had on this ballot one hundred and eighty-four and a half, and Mr. Lincoln one hundred and eighty-one votes. But still no one had enough votes to be nominated; so they voted again.

On the third ballot Mr. Lincoln had two hundred and thirty-one and a half votes, — almost enough to nominate him. As soon as this was known, a delegate from Ohio said his State would make a change, and give four votes to Mr. Lincoln. This decided the contest, and Mr. Lincoln was chosen.

The whole convention now fairly boiled over with the wildest excitement. Cheer after cheer was given, and returned by the crowd outside, until everybody was too hoarse to cheer any more. As soon as the meeting became calm enough for a speaker's voice to be heard, other States announced their wish to change their votes for Lincoln, until at length the whole convention voted for him.

This all happened in the morning. In the afternoon the convention met again, and chose Hannibal Hamlin of Maine for Vice-President. Thus the Republican ticket was Lincoln and Hamlin.

Mr. Lincoln was not present at this convention, he was at his home in Springfield; but the news went flashing over the wires. He was in a newspaper

office, conversing with some friends, when a boy came running in with a note for Mr. Lincoln, which informed him that he was nominated on the third ballot. Mr. Lincoln took the news very quietly, and put the note in his pocket; but his friends were all shouting in the most excited manner. Pretty soon Mr. Lincoln left them, saying, "There 's a little woman down at our house would like to know this, and I 'll go down and tell her."

The Republicans all over the Union were very thankful that the convention had nominated Mr. Lincoln; for they knew he was a man of firm principles, with a most intense love for freedom. They knew, too, that he was entirely truthful and honest, and they were not afraid to trust the destiny of the nation in his hands. It was time that an honest captain took command of the ship of State; for Mr. Buchanan had proved untrue to the high trusts reposed in him, and the poor old ship was toiling among breakers, and it looked very much as if she would be dashed against the rocks. Although Mr. Lincoln was elected on the 6th of November, you know that he would not become President until the following 4th of March.

CHAPTER XI.

Commencement of Secession Movement. — General Scott's Anxiety. — Defection of Buchanan and his Cabinet. — Anderson's Removal to Fort Sumter. — South Carolina secedes. — Secret Meeting of Jefferson Davis and other Leaders. — Other States secede. — Their Congressmen resign their Seats at Washington. — Convention of Seceded States at Montgomery. — Jefferson Davis is chosen President, Alexander H. Stephens Vice-President. — The Confederacy prepares for War. — Congress tries to conciliate.

E must now learn when and how this danger came, which threatened to engulf the ship of State, and also what Mr. Buchanan did during the remaining months of his term of office.

The Southern people had for a long time been making all sorts of attempts to strengthen and extend slavery, and when they found that Mr. Lincoln had been elected President they were angry, and declared he should *never be their President.* All the Southern people did not feel in this way; but those who did resolved to make the rest think as they thought, or, at any rate, act with them.

For this purpose a few leading men tried to excite the Southern people by telling them that Mr. Lincoln was a very bad man and a great tyrant, who would rob them of their slaves and all their lawful rights under the Constitution; and urged them not to submit to his rule, but to come out and have a separate government of their own.

Just before the election of Mr. Lincoln, in November, General Scott, Commander-in-chief of the United States Army, wrote a letter to President Buchanan, and his Secretary of War, Mr. Floyd, saying he was fearful that preparations were going on at the South to seize the United States forts in the Southern harbors; he therefore suggested that garrisons of soldiers be placed in the forts to protect them. Mr. Buchanan did not pay any attention to the letter, and Mr. Floyd declared that, for his part, he would not permit anything of the kind to be done. This Mr. Floyd had a great deal of power in his hands, because he was one of the President's Cabinet.

This Cabinet is composed of several gentlemen whom the President chooses for his particular advisers; and they are called the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, of the Interior, of the Navy, of War, of Agriculture, the Attorney-General, and the Postmaster-General. The President and his Cabinet are called the administration, because they administer or

execute the laws. Congress makes the laws, and these gentlemen execute them. The President can choose those whom he wishes to form his Cabinet; but the Senate is at liberty to reject any one who has been chosen, and no one can become a member of the Cabinet until his appointment has been confirmed by the Senate.

Well, as we were saying, this Mr. Floyd, being Secretary of War in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet, had a great deal of power in his hands, and used it all to favor the South. He foresaw that trouble was at hand, and meant to do his utmost to cripple the North and help the South. So he absolutely refused to allow any garrisons to be placed in the Southern forts. The national army was very small at this time, consisting of only about sixteen thousand men, and Mr. Floyd had scattered them to the most remote corners of the Union; he had also shipped large quantities of arms and ammunition to the South.

When our Congress met at Washington, on the 3d of December, the country was in a terrible condition. South Carolina was behaving very badly, and it was the prevailing opinion that she would soon attempt to secede from the Union.

President Buchanan seems to have been entirely at a loss what to do. At all events, he did next to nothing. In his message to Congress he said he did

not think any State had the right to secede from the Union; but if she chose to secede, he did not think Congress had any right to make war upon her to prevent her from seceding. He said the North had made such a noise about slavery that many of the slaves had become excited, and the Southern people were afraid of insurrection among them, and that was why they were making preparations for war; and he thought it proper that these preparations should be made. He wanted all the States to behave well, but said he had no right to coerce a State; and he advised that the Constitution should be amended so as to say that the slaves were property, and that this property must be protected in all the Territories of the United States. He thought some such measures would restore peace and harmony.

At this time Major Anderson, with a handful of men, commanded Fort Moultrie, in Charleston Harbor. The loyal officials at Washington felt very uneasy about this fort, and thought it ought to be reinforced. Mr. Cass, Mr. Buchanan's Secretary of State, said the forts of Charleston Harbor must be reinforced, and Mr. Floyd said they must not. The President listened to his Secretary of War, instead of to his Secretary of State; and so Mr. Cass would not stay in his Cabinet, but resigned on the 14th of December.

On the 20th of December the State of South Carolina passed an ordinance of secession, and declared that the union which had subsisted between herself and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, was dissolved; four days later the Governor issued a proclamation declaring the State of South Carolina to be "a separate, sovereign, free, and independent State," — which meant that forever after she intended to do just as she pleased. South Carolina claimed this under the principle of "State rights," or "State sovereignty," which had long been believed in by the South, but was disposed of forever by our great Civil War.

Major Anderson now began to think that his situation at Fort Moultrie was very unsafe; and as he did not see any prospect of being aided by the Government, he decided, on his own responsibility, to remove with his little garrison of about seventy soldiers and forty workmen to the stronger position of Fort Sumter, about two miles distant. His movement was planned with the greatest secrecy, and safely accomplished in the dead of the night on the 26th of December.

The South Carolinians were greatly enraged, and accused President Buchanan of breaking his pledge to them. But the President assured them they were mistaken; that Major Anderson went entirely of his

own accord; and that when he had first heard of it, he had thought of ordering the Major back to Fort Moultrie; but as the South Carolinians had already taken possession of that fort, it was impossible for him to send the Major there. But Mr. Floyd insisted that the President had broken his pledge that no change should be made in any of the forts; and so Mr. Floyd said he would not stay in the Cabinet any longer, and three days after Anderson's removal to Fort Sumter he resigned.

Directly after Mr. Floyd resigned, it was found that he had taken with him eight hundred and seventy thousand dollars of the public funds, claiming that this portion belonged to the Southern States. About this time South Carolina sent three commissioners to President Buchanan, asking him to deliver up the forts and all other government property in Charleston to them. The President did not tell them that they might have the forts; but he did nothing to prevent their taking them.

On the evening of the 5th of January, 1861, a secret meeting was held at Washington, composed of Senators from Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, and Florida. They said that all the Southern States must follow the example of South Carolina and secede as soon as possible, and decided that a convention of all these States should meet,

sometime in February, at Montgomery, Alabama. But they advised that all the members of Congress from the Southern States should keep their seats at Washington as long as they could, to see how matters went on there, and to upset any measures which might be proposed to their disadvantage. Jefferson Davis, Mr. Slidell, and Mr. Mallory were appointed a committee to see that these things were done.

Four days after this meeting Mississippi seceded. Two days later Alabama followed her example. Florida took the same step on the 10th, Georgia passed an ordinance of secession on the 19th, Louisiana took her departure on the 25th of the same month, and Texas on the 1st of February.

Three days after the secret meeting at Washington, Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior, resigned; and in two days more P. F. Thomas of Maryland, who was Secretary of the Treasury in place of Howell Cobb, took the same step. Cobb himself had resigned a month before. On the 21st of January Messrs. Yulee and Mallory of Florida resigned their seats in the Senate, and just a week later Mr. Iverson of Georgia followed their example. Then Messrs. Clay and Fitzpatrick of Alabama said they would not stay any longer, and Jefferson Davis left at the same time. Messrs. Slidell and

Benjamin of Louisiana took their leave on the 4th of February.

The convention of the seceded States met on this day at Montgomery, Alabama, and adopted a provisional constitution, to remain in force for one year. Jefferson Davis was chosen President, and Alexander H. Stephens Vice-President, of this so-called Confederacy. Jefferson Davis declared that the South was determined to maintain her position, if necessary, by the force of arms. He said he supposed the South would experience some inconveniences in the beginning, but he had no doubt of final success.

The new Confederates now began to make their preparations for war, although they did not expect to do any fighting as long as Mr. Buchanan remained in the chair; for, as he had said that he did not think he had any right to coerce a State, they concluded that, no matter what they did, the President would not meddle with them. So they made contracts all over the South for the manufacture of powder, shot, shells, and cannon-balls. They also began to organize an army, and on the 6th of March their so-called Congress passed an act to raise a force of a hundred thousand men.

While these things were going on, our own Congressmen were trying in every way to devise some

measures to conciliate the Southern people. They spent the whole winter in offering various resolutions, which conceded all that the South could in justice demand.

CHAPTER XII.

Mr. Lincoln leaves Springfield. — Farewell. — Arrival at Tolono, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Steubenville, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Albany, Troy, Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Peekskill, New York, Trenton, Philadelphia, Harrisburg. — Plot to take his Life. — His Safe Arrival at Washington. — Lincoln's Addresses.

THE inauguration of Mr. Lincoln was at hand. You have now seen what a terrible condition the country was in, and what an appalling task he had before him.

Mr. Lincoln left his home in Springfield on the 11th of February. A large company of his friends and neighbors attended him to the station, and he bade them good-by in these words: —

"My friends, no one not in my position can appreciate the sadness I feel at this parting. To this people I owe all that I am. Here I have lived more than a quarter of a century; here my children were born, and here one of them lies buried. I know not how soon I shall see you again. A duty devolves upon me which is, perhaps, greater than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He would never have succeeded except for the

aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support; and I hope you, my friends, will all pray that I may receive that Divine assistance without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain. Again I bid you all an affectionate farewell."

Now, my children, I want you to read carefully this farewell of Mr. Lincoln's, for it is admirable. It is very simple, as is everything else the great man ever said.

What a beautiful, tender, modest soul was his! With what childlike faith in God he embarked on his tempestuous voyage! Some men would have been lifted up with pride at being called to fill the highest position in the United States. Others would have trembled and shrunk from assuming that position amid so great perils. For, besides the terribly disturbed state of the country, about which I have already told you, a company of bad men had openly made their boast that they would never allow Mr. Lincoln to reach Washington alive. They meant to kill him somewhere on the route.

Now, although Mr. Lincoln was fully alive to every particular connected with his position, he was neither puffed up with pride nor depressed with fear, but was calm and quiet; perhaps he was the calmest man in

the whole country. And the reason was this: he trusted in God and the people. Probably there never was a public man who had such confidence in the people as he had. He did not believe the people would ever allow this great and mighty nation to go to ruin, and he kept telling them so. But, more than all, he believed in God. He tells his friends, as he bids them good-by, that with God's assistance success is certain. He asked God to assist him, and he believed God would do it; so he went forth on his mighty mission as firm as a rock and as modest as a child. Abraham Lincoln never placed his head upon his pillow at night without saying his prayers; and if you do as he did, you may expect God's blessing as much as he expected it.

As the train which bore Mr. Lincoln went whirling and shrieking through the country, people everywhere assembled at the railroad stations. The ladies and girls waved their handkerchiefs and threw bouquets into the cars, and the men and boys shouted for "Lincoln and the Constitution" at the top of their voices. Wherever the cars stopped long enough, Mr. Lincoln would make his appearance and say a few kind and pleasant words; and at places where he remained for several hours he sometimes made speeches of considerable length. At little villages, where the train only paused for a moment, he replied

with bows and pleasant smiles to the greetings which everywhere met him. You shall hear a few of the things he said along the route. At Tolono, amid deafening applause, he said: —

"I am leaving you on an errand of national importance, attended, as you are aware, with considerable difficulties. Let us believe, as some poet has expressed it, 'Behind the cloud, the sun is still shining.' I bid you an affectionate farewell."

At Indianapolis Mr. Lincoln found the Governor of the State waiting for him in his carriage. The whole city had turned out to do Mr. Lincoln honor, and he was escorted to the Bates House in splendid style. In his address to the people from the balcony of the hotel, he said: —

"For the salvation of the Union there needs but one single thing, — the hearts of a people like yours. When the people rise in mass in behalf of the Union and the liberties of their country, truly may it be said, 'The gates of hell cannot prevail against them.'"

In the evening Mr. Lincoln spoke again to the members of the Legislature, and the next morning set off for Cincinnati, where he arrived about noon. All along the route, at every railroad station, thousands of people had assembled to catch a glimpse of the future President and shout their welcome.

At Cincinnati Mr. Lincoln's reception was almost

overwhelming. The streets were jammed with people, and it was with great difficulty that his escort forced a passage through the crowd to the Burnett House, which had been decorated and fitted up in the most beautiful manner in honor of his arrival. Mr. Lincoln remained at Cincinnati until the next morning, when he set off for Columbus, the capital of the State, attended by a portion of the Ohio Legislature, who had come on to escort him thither. Upon their arrival at Columbus, the party proceeded to the State House, where Mr. Lincoln was greeted by the Lieutenant-Governor. To the Legislature Mr. Lincoln said: —

"It is true, as has been said by the President of the Senate, that very great responsibility rests upon me in the position to which the votes of the American people have called me. I am deeply sensible of that weighty responsibility. I cannot but know — what you all know — that without a name, perhaps without a reason why I should have a name, there has fallen upon me a task such as did not rest even upon the Father of his Country; and so feeling, I cannot but turn and look for the support without which it will be impossible for me to perform that great task. I turn, then, and look to the great American people, and to that God who has never forsaken them."

Observe how Mr. Lincoln constantly refers to his low origin. Some men would have been ashamed of

it; he never was. He never forgot that he was born in a log-cabin; he did not think that made him any better or any worse; he was truly independent, and believed in the independence of all men. He feared no man, but he feared God; that is, he feared to displease him, and loved to obey him.

The following morning Mr. Lincoln left Columbus. The train paused at Steubenville, where he said to the people: "I fear that the great confidence placed in my ability is unfounded; indeed, I am sure it is. Encompassed by vast difficulties, as I am, nothing shall be wanting on my part, if sustained by the American people and God." This was his trust from first to last, — God and the people.

The train rushed on, and in the evening reached Pittsburg, where Mr. Lincoln was met, as usual, by a crowd of enthusiastic admirers, and escorted to the Monongahela House. Here he said that if all the whole-souled people whom he saw this evening before him were for the preservation of the Union, he did not see how it could be in much danger. In the morning he was waited upon by the Mayor and Common Council of the city, to whom, after an address of welcome on their part, he said: —

"The condition of the country is an extraordinary one, and fills the mind of every patriot with anxiety. My advice is, to keep cool. If the great American people only keep

their temper on both sides of the line, the trouble will come to an end, and the question which now distracts the country will be settled; and just as other clouds have cleared away in due time, so will this great nation continue to prosper, as heretofore."

Then he spoke of the tariff. "The tariff," said he, "is a question of national housekeeping. It is to the Government what replenishing the meal-tub is to the family." Then, quoting from the Chicago platform, he said: —

"While providing revenue for the support of the general Government, by duties upon imports, sound policy requires such an adjustment of these imports as will encourage the development of the industrial interest of the whole country; and we commend that policy of national exchanges which secures to working-men liberal wages, to agriculture remunerative prices, to mechanics and manufacturers adequate reward for their skill, labor, and enterprise, and to the nation commercial prosperity and independence."

Mr. Lincoln wanted to have everybody treated fairly; he did not wish one part of the nation to grow rich at the expense of another part, but he wanted all sections to enjoy equal advantages.

From Pittsburg he went to Cleveland. Here the shouts and cheers of the people blended with the thunders of cannon, as a long procession escorted him to the Weddell House, where he was greeted by the Mayor of the city. Here Mr. Lincoln said: —

"We have been marching about two miles, through snow, rain, and deep mud. The large numbers that have turned out under these circumstances testify that you are in earnest about something or other. I am given to understand that this reception is tendered, not only by my own party supporters, but by men of all parties. This is as it should be. If Judge Douglas had been elected and had been here, on his way to Washington, as I am to-night, the Republicans should have joined his supporters in welcoming him, just as his friends have joined with mine to-night. If all do not join now to save the good old ship of the Union on this voyage, nobody will have a chance to pilot her on another voyage."

The next morning Mr. Lincoln took his departure for Buffalo. An immense throng awaited his arrival, and escorted him to the American House, where he was, as usual, greeted by the Mayor, in reply to whose address he said: —

"Your worthy Mayor has thought fit to express the hope that I may be able to relieve the country from the present, or, I should say, the threatened difficulties. I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. For the ability to perform it I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance I shall surely fail; with it I cannot fail. Allow me to say that you, as a portion of the great American people, need only to maintain your composure, stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the Constitution, and act in accordance

with those sober convictions; and the clouds which now arise in the horizon will be dispelled, and we shall have a bright and glorious future. And when this generation has passed away, tens of thousands will inhabit this country, where only thousands inhabit it now."

Mr. Lincoln's words were those of a prophet. A bright and glorious future was dawning upon the nation, unstained by the foul blot of slavery; and this has been accomplished, as Mr. Lincoln said it would be, by the people, because they acted up to their earnest convictions of right. But little did he or they imagine then in how terrible a manner this was to be wrought out. God has his own ways to bring about all his purposes, and his ways are not always our ways.

Mr. Lincoln remained at Buffalo over Sunday, and on Monday morning left for Rochester, at which place he spoke a few words to the assembled crowd. Then the train pushed on for Syracuse. Here the people had erected a very handsome platform for Mr. Lincoln to stand upon while he addressed them; but there was not time for him to ascend it. He said a few kind words to them, however, and then proceeded to Utica. The train paused only a few moments, and then sped on to Albany, where a great procession escorted Mr. Lincoln to the State House. Here, in an address to the Legislature, he said: —

"It is true that while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all individuals that have ever been elevated to the Presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them. I don't propose to speak at this time of the policy of the Government. But when the time comes I shall speak, as well as I am able, for the good of the present and future of this country, — for the good both of the North and the South of this country, for the good of the one and the other, and of all sections of the country."

Mr. Lincoln next passed on to Troy, where he thanked the people very kindly for their great reception. At Hudson he spoke a few pleasant words, but had not time to ascend the beautiful platform which had been erected for him. At Poughkeepsie, where great honors were showered upon him, Mr. Lincoln said: —

"In accepting the great trust committed to me, which I do with a determination to endeavor to prove worthy of it, I must rely upon you, upon the people of the whole country, for support; and with their sustaining aid, even I, humble as I am, cannot fail to carry the ship of State safely through the storm."

At Peekskill he said: —

"If I can only be as generously and unanimously sustained as the demonstrations I have witnessed indicate I shall be, I shall not fail; but without your sustaining hands I am sure that neither I nor any other man can hope to surmount these difficulties."

Mr. Lincoln now proceeded to New York, where he arrived at three o'clock in the afternoon. Business was suspended, and all Broadway was crammed with the immense throng which tried to catch a glimpse of the future President, as he was being escorted to the Astor House. Mr. Lincoln stepped upon the balcony of the hotel, and showed himself to the excited multitude, who kept calling for him; but he was too tired to make a speech. The next morning he was escorted with great honor to the City Hall, and welcomed by the Mayor. Mr. Lincoln said here: —

"I understand that the ship is made for the carrying and preservation of the cargo; and so long as the ship is safe with the cargo, it shall not be abandoned. This Union shall never be abandoned, unless the possibility of its existence shall cease to exist, without the necessity of throwing passengers and cargo overboard."

Going from New York to Trenton, Mr. Lincoln paused at Jersey City and Newark. At Trenton he was received by a portion of the Legislature, and escorted to the State House. Here he said: —

"May I be pardoned if upon this occasion I mention that away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, — such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen, — Weems's 'Life of Washington.' I remember all the accounts there given of the battlefields and struggles for the liberties of the country;

and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, New Jersey. The crossing of the river, the contest with the Hessians, the great hardships endured at that time, — all fixed themselves upon my memory more than any single Revolutionary event; and you all know, for you have all been boys, how these early impressions last longer than any others. I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that these men struggled for.

"I am exceedingly anxious that that thing which they struggled for, that something, even more than national independence, that something that held out a great promise to all the people of the world to all time to come, — I am exceedingly anxious that this Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea for which that struggle was made; and I shall be most happy, indeed, if I shall be an humble instrument in the hands of the Almighty, and of this his most chosen people, for perpetuating the object of that great struggle."

Addressing the other branch of the Legislature, he said: "The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am, none who would do more to preserve it; but it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly. And if I do my duty and do right, you will sustain me, will you not?" He was answered with hearty cheers and cries of "Yes, yes, we will."

From Trenton Mr. Lincoln proceeded to Philadel-

phia, and was escorted to the Continental House. While in this city he was invited to raise the national flag over old Independence Hall, where the Declaration of Independence was first published to the world. Before raising the flag he said: —

"I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here, and framed and adopted that Declaration of Independence. I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that independence. I have often inquired of myself, what great principle or idea it was that kept this confederacy so long together. It was not the mere matter of the separation of the Colonies from the mother-land, but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men, and that all should have an equal chance. This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence. Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I shall consider myself one of the happiest men in the world if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful. But if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it. I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, if it be the pleasure of Almighty God, to die by."

He was now escorted to a platform in front of the building, and the cord was placed in his hands. The beautiful flag rose to the top of the staff, and he says himself that "it floated gloriously to the wind, without an accident, in the bright, glowing sunshine of the morning." While the flag was being raised, the artillery roared out its loudest thunders for an accompaniment.

In the afternoon Mr. Lincoln took his departure for Harrisburg, stopping for a moment at Lancaster. He addressed the Legislature at the State Capitol, then devoted several hours to the reception of visitors, and at six o'clock in the evening retired to his room. Nobody saw him after that until he arrived safe in Washington the next morning.

There was a good reason for this disappearance. You will recollect that a band of bad men had sworn that Mr. Lincoln should never reach Washington alive. Some of Mr. Lincoln's friends, hearing a rumor of the plot, determined to find out if there were any foundation for it. For this purpose they employed a skilful and experienced detective to sift the matter to the very bottom. This police-officer went to Baltimore some time before the expected arrival of Mr. Lincoln, and in a very ingenious manner succeeded in unravelling the plot. He found that a large band of assassins, commanded by an Italian

barber who called himself Orsini, had taken a solemn oath that Mr. Lincoln should never leave Baltimore alive, if, indeed, he should ever enter it; at all events, he should never be inaugurated.

These fellows intended to throw the train off the track before it reached Baltimore; but if they should fail to do this, the assassins were to mix with the crowd which should surround Mr. Lincoln's carriage as he passed through the city. They were to pretend to be his warmest friends and admirers, that they might get very close to the carriage; and when near enough, their barber captain was to give a signal, at which some of these conspirators were to discharge pistols at Mr. Lincoln, and others were to throw hand grenades (small iron shells filled with detonating powder) into his carriage. This gang thought that by these combined measures Mr. Lincoln must surely be killed. They intended to save themselves by mingling with the crowd, in the midst of the excitement which would naturally follow, and make good their escape to a vessel which was to be in waiting for them in the harbor.

By the time that Mr. Lincoln had arrived at Philadelphia, this skilful detective had discovered the entire plot; and he hurried on to that city to disclose it to our future President, and to warn him that he must not pass through Baltimore.

At first Mr. Lincoln could not credit the detective's story: he was so good himself that he could not believe such evil of others; moreover, he disliked to change his plans, and so disappoint the people who were expecting to see him. But at length, when his friends had convinced him that there could be no mistake about this horrible plot, he yielded to their solicitations and altered his arrangements.

After retiring to his room at Harrisburg, as everybody thought to rest, he put on a Scotch plaid cap and a long military cloak, — according to some authorities, though others say that he was not disguised at all, — and stepping into a carriage which had been provided for him, was driven rapidly to the railroad-station, and returned in a special train to Philadelphia. As soon as he left the hotel at Harrisburg all the telegraph wires were cut, so that if his departure were discovered, it could not be made known to other cities.

As soon as Mr. Lincoln arrived at Philadelphia, he boarded the night train for Washington, where he arrived safe the next morning at six o'clock. Mr. Washburn, member of Congress from Illinois, met him at the station, and escorted him to Willard's Hotel. It was immediately telegraphed all over the country that Mr. Lincoln was in Washington. When those wicked conspirators heard that he had escaped them, and that their plans had been found out and

baffled, they were very much enraged, and still swore that he should never be inaugurated.

Mrs. Lincoln, who, with her children, had remained behind in company with friends, soon followed her husband to Washington.

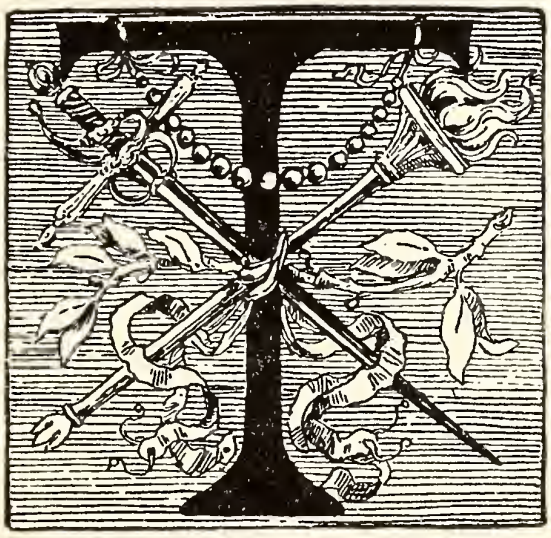
Mr. Lincoln was waited on by the Mayor and Common Council of the city, and was also serenaded. To the large crowd assembled on this occasion he said: —

"We are in no wise disposed, if it were in our power, to oppress you, to deprive you of any of your rights under the Constitution of the United States, or even narrowly to split hairs with you in regard to these rights; but are determined to give you, as far as lies in our hands, all your rights under the Constitution, — not grudgingly, but fully and fairly."

This was the last time Mr. Lincoln appeared in public, until the day of his inauguration.

CHAPTER XIII.

Mr. Lincoln's Inauguration. — Personal Appearance. — Habits.



HE 4th of March, 1861, had now arrived. Great anxiety was felt, not only at Washington, but all over the Union, lest the inauguration should prove a scene of bloodshed. But the venerable General Scott, the good, brave, and loyal defender of his country, had made skilful provision against an outbreak. He had called out a large military force, and if lawless men were present they did not attempt to disturb the ceremony.

An immense procession escorted Mr. Lincoln to the Capitol, where, standing on a magnificent platform erected for him on the east front of the edifice, he took the oath of office and delivered his inaugural address, — in the presence, it is said, of at least ten

thousand persons. You shall have a few extracts from the Inaugural. Mr. Lincoln, after solemnly assuring the Southern people that he had no intention of meddling with slavery wherever it already existed, and after pledging them that all their rights under the Constitution would be respected, said: —

"It is seventy-two years since the first inauguration of a President under our National Constitution. During that period fifteen different and greatly distinguished citizens have, in succession, administered the Executive branch of the Government. They have conducted it through many perils, and generally with great success. Yet, with all this scope for precedent, I now enter upon the same task, for the brief constitutional term of four years, under great and peculiar difficulty. A disruption of the Federal Union, heretofore only menaced, is now formidably attempted. I hold that in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, *the Union of these States is perpetual.* Continue to execute all the express provisions of our National Government, and the Union will endure forever, — it being impossible to destroy it, except by some action not provided for in the instrument itself.

"I therefore consider that, in view of the Constitution and the laws, the Union is unbroken; and to the extent of my ability I shall take care, as the Constitution itself expressly enjoins upon me, that the laws of the Union be faithfully executed in all the States. Doing this I deem to be only a simple duty on my part, and I shall perform it so far as practicable, unless my rightful masters, the American people,

shall withhold the requisite means, or in some authoritative manner direct the contrary. In doing this, there need be no bloodshed or violence; and there shall be none, unless it be forced upon the national authority. The power confided to me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what may be necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force against or among the people anywhere. That there are persons in one section or another who seek to destroy the Union at all events, and are glad of any pretext to do it, I will neither affirm nor deny; but if there be such, I need address no word to them.

"To those, however, who really love the Union may I not speak? Before entering upon so grave a matter as the destruction of our national fabric, with all its benefits, its memories, and its hopes, would it not be wise to ascertain precisely why we do it? Will you hazard so desperate a step while there is any possibility that any portion of the ills you fly from have no real existence? Will you, while the certain ills you fly to are greater than all the real ones you fly from,—will you risk the commission of so fearful a mistake? All profess to be content in the Union, if all constitutional rights can be maintained. Is it true, then, that any right plainly written in the Constitution has been denied? I think not. Happily, the human mind is so constituted that no party can reach to the audacity of doing this. Think, if you can, of a single instance in which a plainly written provision of the Constitution has ever been denied.

"Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. Intercourse, either amicable or hostile, must continue between them. Suppose you go to war, you cannot fight always; and when, after much loss on both sides, and no gain on either, you cease fighting, the identical old questions as to terms of intercourse are again upon you.

"Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world? In our present differences, is either party without faith of being in the right? If the Almighty Ruler of nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail, by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people. My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject. Nothing valuable can be lost by taking time. If there be an object to hurry any one of you in hot haste to a step which you would never take deliberately, that object will be frustrated by taking time; but no good object can be frustrated by it.

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The Government will not assail you; you can have no conflict without being yourselves the aggressors. You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the Government; while I have the most solemn one to 'preserve, protect, and defend' it. I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We

must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bonds of affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and every patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Perhaps you would like to know, children, how this man looked, who talked so earnestly, so calmly, and so affectionately to all the people in the United States, but in particular to those who wanted to get out of the United States. You must picture to yourselves a tall man, very tall indeed, with a massive frame and very long limbs. He was also thin in flesh, and some persons have called him awkward in his movements. His head was large and finely developed. He had a good forehead, fine dark gray eyes, a slightly Roman nose, a large mouth, and a very dark complexion. His hair was black, but tinged with gray, and his voice was rich and silvery. His expression was kind and winning, though habitually sad. It has been said that his face, when in repose, would not be likely to attract notice; but in addressing an audience he possessed a very remarkable power of commanding their attention. Every eye was fastened upon him, and all were silent as death. His countenance became glowing, his eye lustrous

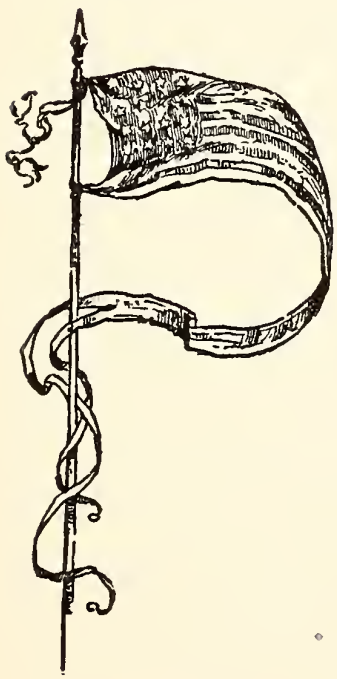
and his whole appearance, instead of being awkward or ungainly, was now graceful and eloquent. He was habitually neat in his dress, but not fashionable.

His habits were as pure and simple as a child's. He never used tobacco in any way. This was the kind, noble, pure-hearted man that stood in presence of this vast multitude, and begged every person who thought of trying to get out of these United States to stop a moment and ask himself what he wanted to get away from. He earnestly advised all such persons to count the cost, and see if they could gain anything by it. He did not tell them that he did not think he had any right to coerce them or meddle with them, whatever they did; on the other hand, he told them expressly that he should use the power confided to him to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government, and that he should collect the duties and imposts. But he also told them that in doing this there need be no violence or bloodshed, and that there would be none unless they themselves began the strife.

They did begin it, as you shall presently hear. South Carolina was the first State to make war upon the Union, as she had been the first to withdraw from it.

CHAPTER XIV.

President Lincoln chooses his Cabinet. — The "Star of the West." — Anderson's Letter. — The President's Dilemma. — Surrender of Fort Sumter demanded and refused. — Bombardment of Fort Sumter. — Anderson Surrenders. — Exultation of the South. — Indignation of the North.



PRESIDENT LINCOLN was inaugurated and sworn into office, and then made public the names of his Cabinet, — his official family, with whom he might sit down and consult concerning the momentous affairs of the nation. He appointed William H. Seward of New York Secretary of State, Salmon P. Chase of Ohio Secretary of the Treasury, Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania Secretary of War, Gideon Welles of Connecticut Secretary of the Navy, Caleb B. Smith of Indiana Secretary of the Interior, Montgomery Blair of Maryland Post-

master-General, and Edward Bates of Missouri Attorney-General. The Senate confirmed all these appointments, and thus these gentlemen became Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet.

You will recollect how angry the South Carolinians were because Major Anderson removed from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, and also that Mr. Floyd, Mr. Buchanan's Secretary of War, resigned on account of that removal, because he said President Buchanan in allowing it had broken his promise. Floyd and several other members of this Cabinet said that Mr. Buchanan had pledged himself that no change should be made in the forts in Charleston Harbor, and that no reinforcements should be sent to any of these forts. The Northern people had begun to feel very anxious for the fate of these forts, and of Fort Sumter in particular; for it was well known that Major Anderson had but a handful of men, and was nearly out of provisions.

Some generous merchants in New York, fearing that the Government did not intend to do anything for the brave Major, resolved to take the matter into their own hands. They contributed a large amount of money, and selected a steamer for the expedition. But before their preparations were completed, they found that the Government had decided to send supplies to the fort; so they gave up their plan. The

Government made all its arrangements for reinforcing the Major with the greatest secrecy.

The steamer "Star of the West" was selected for the purpose, and sailed from New York, pretending that she was bound for Havana and New Orleans. She left the wharf on the 5th of January, at five o'clock in the afternoon, and being midwinter it was of course so dark at that hour that nobody could see what she did. She steamed down the bay just as if she had started on her course, but presently hove to and took on board soldiers, arms, ammunition, and supplies, and then put out to sea, bound for Charleston Harbor. She arrived off the bar a little past one o'clock, on the morning of the 9th instant. The lighthouses were as dark as pitch, for the enemy had put out all the lights. The steamer groped along as well as she could, taking soundings constantly with her lead.

By and by the day dawned, and it was discovered that another steamer was close by. Immediately all the troops on board the "Star of the West" were sent below, and no one but the crew was allowed on deck, in order to avoid suspicion of what she came for. But probably everybody who saw her knew what she was and what she came for; for even then the Southerners had their spies in the Northern cities, who kept them constantly informed by tele-

graph of all that was going on. At all events, when the steamer was within two miles of Fort Sumter, a masked battery on Morris Island opened fire upon her, although she was flying the American flag at the time. The vessel continued on her way for about ten minutes, under fire from this battery, when another steamer, with an armed schooner in tow, was seen approaching. The captain of the "Star of the West" now concluded that, as he had no cannon to defend himself with, it would be madness for him to attempt to proceed; so he turned about and put to sea, and thus no supplies reached Major Anderson.

But although the "Star of the West" did not accomplish anything, the Southern members of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet were very angry that she was even allowed to sail, and Jacob Thompson resigned on that account. President Buchanan did not take the least notice of this insult to our flag, nor did he make any further attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter.

On the 28th of February Major Anderson's case had become so desperate that he wrote a letter to the War Department at Washington, describing the perils of his situation, and saying that, in his opinion, it would require a force of twenty thousand men to throw reinforcements into his garrison in season to save him from starvation. This letter was not re-

ceived by the Department until the 4th day of March. The next day it was presented to President Lincoln, who immediately laid the case before General Scott. After thinking this subject over carefully for four whole days, and consulting officers both of the army and navy, General Scott was obliged to conclude that the Major was right. But he told the President he did not know what could be done about the matter, for the Government had not such a body of men at its disposal; neither could it raise them, before the garrison would be out of provisions.

Now, these were rather startling facts to stare the President in the face at the very beginning of his administration. What should he do? If he should abandon Fort Sumter, he would be ruined; for the Southerners would then conclude they could do anything they pleased, and the North would think that the President did not intend to hinder them. But Major Anderson could not remain in the fort and starve! Fort Pickens was also in great peril.

The President was in a sad dilemma. He did not want to use force against the Southerners if he could help it. He had told them, in his inaugural address, that there would be no war unless they began it; but he had also told them that they could not be allowed to seize the property of the United States. After a

great deal of reflection and a conference with General Scott, the President finally concluded that he would reinforce Fort Pickens to begin with, because he thought he had men enough at his command to do this; and perhaps by the time this was accomplished, a way might be devised for reinforcing Fort Sumter.

Accordingly the President despatched an order to the commander of the steamship "Brooklyn" to carry the troops in his vessel to Fort Pickens; but, from some cause or other, these troops had been transferred to the frigate "Sabine," and the commander of the "Sabine" said he would not land his troops in Fort Pickens, because it was contrary to the armistice of ex-President Buchanan. A good deal of time had been consumed in sending this order, and it took as much more for the President's messenger to return to him and tell him that the commander of the "Sabine" refused to obey orders.

Here was a dilemma for the President worse than the first; however, he was equal to it. He had not been idle while his messenger was gone to Fort Pickens, but had been preparing an expedition consisting of several vessels, with men, arms, ammunition, and provisions, to be sent to Fort Pickens if necessary, and also to stop by the way and throw supplies into Fort Sumter. The President ordered

this expedition to sail at once, and also despatched another order to the commander of the "Sabine," and Fort Pickens was at length amply reinforced. Governor Pickens of South Carolina was now informed that provisions would be sent to Fort Sumter, — peaceably if possible, but otherwise by force. At all events, the garrison was to be provisioned.

Upon this, General Beauregard, who commanded the Rebel forces at Charleston, was ordered to demand the instant surrender of Fort Sumter. Major Anderson refused to comply with this demand. Gen. Beauregard, who knew that the garrison was nearly starved out, now asked the Major when he would evacuate the fort, at the same time telling him that if he would promise not to use his guns against the forts unless they first opened fire upon him, they would not fire upon Fort Sumter. Major Anderson replied to this that he would evacuate the fort by noon of the 15th, unless before that time he should receive supplies or instructions from his Government. But it did not suit the enemy to wait so long as this; because they knew that supplies were on the way to the Major, although the Major himself did not know anything about it. So Beauregard sent an instant reply that he would open his batteries upon the fort within an hour, unless the Major surrendered.

The South Carolinians had been engaged for about

three months in erecting batteries around this fort, and strengthening those already there, until it was threatened by a line of fortifications extending around three quarters of a circle. All this had been going on under the Major's eyes; but he was powerless to stop it; he had done the best he could, however, to strengthen himself within his own fort, for he expected it would be attacked sooner or later. The fort was in an unfinished condition, and but very few of the guns were in position when he took possession of it. He had been able to mount only fifty-two in all, and but few of these were his heaviest pieces; while those of the enemy were, many of them, of very heavy calibre. Thus the brave Major was in a poor condition to sustain a siege.

Beauregard's batteries began the bombardment on Friday, the 12th of April, at half-past four o'clock in the morning. The Major took it with the utmost coolness, and made every preparation for the safety of his men, before he allowed any return fire to be made. He ordered all the sentinels to leave their posts on the parapets, closed the posterns, sent word to the men on no account to leave the bomb-proofs until the drum should summon them, then defiantly ran up the glorious old stars and stripes, and left the enemy to bang away, while he made preparations for breakfast. At half-past six the garrison all partook

of this meal as leisurely as though nothing unusual was the matter. After breakfast Major Anderson divided his men into three reliefs; each relief was to work four hours at a time at the different batteries. All this time the batteries had been pouring shot and shells into the fort.

At seven o'clock the garrison was ready to reply. The first relief took its station at the guns, and opened upon Cummings' Point battery, Fort Moultrie, and Sullivan's Island. Captain Doubleday, who was one of the commanders of this relief, had the honor of firing the first gun. During the first four hours the firing was kept up with such rapidity that the enemy thought the fort must have been secretly reinforced. The enthusiasm of the men was so great that Major Anderson could not restrain them. The second and third reliefs could not be kept from the guns, and even the common laborers, who were not soldiers at all, would come and help; so that, in fact, everybody in the fort was at work.

By and by one of the guns was thought to be in so dangerous a position that Major Anderson ordered everybody away from it, and said it must not be fired any more. Pretty soon one of the officers heard this very gun again. He went to it, and what do you think he saw? — a party of the common laborers serving it, with not a single soldier to help them. "What

are you doing with that gun?" said the officer. "Oh, sir," replied one of them, who could hardly speak for the tears of joy which choked him, "*we hit the battery right in the centre.*"

Thus these brave fellows worked. Meanwhile the scene within the fort became terrific. Heavy splinters of wood and iron were flying in every direction; red-hot shot came pouring in, setting the wood-work on fire and blinding and suffocating the men with the smoke; thirty-two pounders tore up the ground at their feet, covering them with mud and earth; and by and by an immense ninety-six pounder came bursting in just above the magazine.

On Friday, while the fire was at its hottest, somebody looking through the port-holes descried the vessels of our fleet, which the President had sent. Our ships were off the bar and dipped their flag. Major Anderson immediately ordered Fort Sumter's flag to be dipped in return; his order was obeyed by some of our brave fellows, amid the bursting of shells in every direction.

About noon, on Friday, it was discovered that all the cartridges were used up! Thereupon the men stripped off their shirt-sleeves, tore up their sheets and blankets, and a party of five shut themselves up in the magazine and began to sew for dear life, making cartridges; and at it they kept until every avail-

able piece of cloth in the fort had been used. At last Major Anderson, fearing that the magazine would be entirely surrounded with flames, set the men to work taking out the powder. They rolled out *ninety-six barrels through the raging fire*, at the peril of their lives. When it became so hot that they could not get any more, they locked the doors of the magazine. All the wood-work within the fort now burned so rapidly that it was useless to attempt to put it out, and the danger became so great that all this powder had to be thrown into the sea, except three barrels, which the men managed to protect with wet mattresses.

The smoke was now so thick that the men could not see one another, and they were obliged to cover their mouths with wet cloths and throw themselves on the ground, face downward, in order to breathe. They had nothing to eat but salt pork, which was served to them at the guns. Thus these brave men fought on for *thirty-four hours*. At length the flag-staff was shot away. One of the officers rushed boldly out and brought away the flag; but the halliards were so tangled that it was impossible to right it; so they nailed the flag to the staff, and planted it on the ramparts. About this time General Wigfall came up to one of the embrasures, with his handkerchief tied to his sword for a flag of truce, and in the name of General Beauregard demanded the surrender of the fort.

Major Anderson, thinking it would be madness to remain any longer, acceded to Beauregard's demands, and marched out of the fort on Sunday afternoon, with colors flying and drums beating, bringing away all company and private property, *and saluting the dear old flag with fifty guns.* The men spent Sunday morning in making cartridges with which to fire the salute. When the last gun was fired the flag was lowered; but some of its brave defenders lived to see it raised again. At the firing of the last gun an accident happened, by which one man was killed and several were wounded. This was the only death that occurred, on our side, during the whole bombardment, although several were wounded at different times within the fort. The Confederates also have always positively declared that no death occurred on their side during this engagement; but this statement has been doubted.

The South Carolinians and the South generally felt very proud that they had been able to compel the surrender of so strong a fortress as Fort Sumter. They thought they were now in a fine condition to carry on war, if necessary, against the North; but they did not believe the North would ever fight. The Northern people had borne so much from them already, and allowed Mr. Buchanan to help them so much, without even remonstrating against it, that they

concluded the Northerners were such lovers of peace that they would permit them to take all the forts and everything else they wanted, and go out of the Union unmolested, rather than have any bloodshed.

They did not quite understand President Lincoln: they thought it was barely possible, if they were too bold, that he might declare war; but they called him a coward, and looked upon him as a nobody, who was no match for their skill and talent and courage. They thought, moreover, that if President Lincoln should have the audacity to advise war, it would split the North in two, and about half would go over to their side, and thus they would become invincible. So, after the capture of Fort Sumter, and after the stars and stripes had been pulled down from that fortress, and the Confederate and Palmetto flags had been hoisted in their stead, Governor Pickens openly boasted to the people of the South that these flags should never be lowered from Fort Sumter, unless they were lowered and trailed in a sea of blood. He said: —

"It is the first time that the Stars and Stripes have been humbled. They have triumphed for seventy years, but to-day they have been humbled, and humbled before the glorious little State of South Carolina; and I pronounce here, before the civilized world, your independence is baptized in blood, your independence is won upon a glorious battlefield,

and you are free now and forever, in defiance of a world in arms."

This is the way that Governor Pickens tried to render himself and his State immortal, — a kind of immortality one would think that he would now be very glad to forego. The Confederate Secretary of War, Mr. Walker, said at Montgomery, that while no one could tell where the war would end, he would prophesy that the Confederate flag would float over the dome of the old Capitol at Washington before the 1st of May, and that it might eventually float over Faneuil Hall itself. The Southerners had certainly made very bold and extraordinary preparations for executing their threats. Previous to the capture of Fort Sumter, they had seized all the arsenals, dock-yards, custom-houses, and forts, and all the property in and about them, — both that which they could carry off, and that which was stationary in all the seceded States, except Fort Pickens, opposite Pensacola, on Santa Rosa Island, Fort Taylor, at Key West, and Fort Jefferson, at the Dry Tortugas. They had garrisoned and strengthened all these forts, and had built some new ones besides, and were also preparing to besiege those which they had not yet taken possession of.

Mr. Floyd had stripped the Northern arsenals of arms and stores, and other members of Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet had done their part in aiding

the South. Mr. Toucey, Secretary of the Navy, had despatched all the war vessels to foreign countries and distant seas, so that in case of rebellion our Government would have no ships at hand for service. Mr. Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, had aided with money from the public funds.

Since the Confederate Government had organized, it had borrowed eight millions of dollars, had called into the field at the South a force of nineteen thousand men, and as soon as Virginia should give notice that she intended to join the Confederacy sixteen thousand more were ready to march to her borders. Efforts were also in progress to create a navy.

Now, it would be well for you to know just what these men were trying to do. There were thousands of loyal men in the South, but these men were planning to destroy the Government of the United States, and they openly boasted that they had been making preparations to do this for many years. They intended to put everybody out of power whom the people had chosen, and place themselves in authority, and make such laws as suited them, instead of those that pleased the people. For thirty years they had been drilling their young men as soldiers, and making all sorts of arrangements to effect their purposes; but they had never been very bold about their plans until Mr. Buchanan was

President, for there had never before been a President who would have allowed them to carry out their designs. But as he and two-thirds of his Cabinet had not seriously opposed them, by the time Mr. Lincoln took his seat they were in a condition to assume a warlike attitude toward the United States.

These forts and other property at the South, which had been taken possession of, did not belong to the several States in which they were situated, but were the property of the whole United States, and were built at the expense of all the people in the United States. Fort Sumter alone cost a million of dollars.

But President Lincoln and a great portion of the Northern people thought these forts could be quietly retaken after a while. They did not dream that the South would shed the blood of Union soldiers without any provocation whatever. When the telegraph with its thousand tongues proclaimed the shocking, shameful story that a little band of brave, half-starved Union soldiers had been fired upon for refusing to deliver up their fort because the President was going to send them something to eat, no pen can describe what a feeling of horror and of indignation was aroused in every Union breast. "War, war!" was the cry which rose to every loyal lip, from women as well as men. The South meant to divide

the North; they could not have done anything to bind it more firmly together. The Union blood shed at Fort Sumter, which Governor Pickens boasted had baptized the independence of South Carolina, had instead cemented all the Union-loving hearts in these United States into one heart and one soul, and roused in them a determination to put down the rebellion, at whatever cost.

CHAPTER XV.

President Lincoln calls for Troops. — Enthusiasm at the North. — Virginia secedes. — Letters of Marque. — Blockade. — President Lincoln improvises a Navy. — Calls for more Troops.

ON Monday, the next day after the evacuation of Fort Sumter, President Lincoln issued a proclamation, part of which is given below:

PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States.

Whereas the laws of the United States have been for some time past, and now are, opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshal by law: now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of seventy-five thousand,

in order to suppress said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities, through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and existence of the National Union and the perpetuity of popular government, and to redress wrongs already long enough endured. I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union; and in every event the utmost care will be observed, consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of, or any interference with, property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens of any part of the country; and I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

You will notice how mildly yet firmly Mr. Lincoln talks. If the President had been obeyed and allowed quietly to retake the Government property, even the unprovoked assault upon Fort Sumter would have been forgiven, and there would have been no war. But the Rebels laughed this proclamation to scorn. Instead of going to their homes, they began to make every preparation to seize upon Washington.

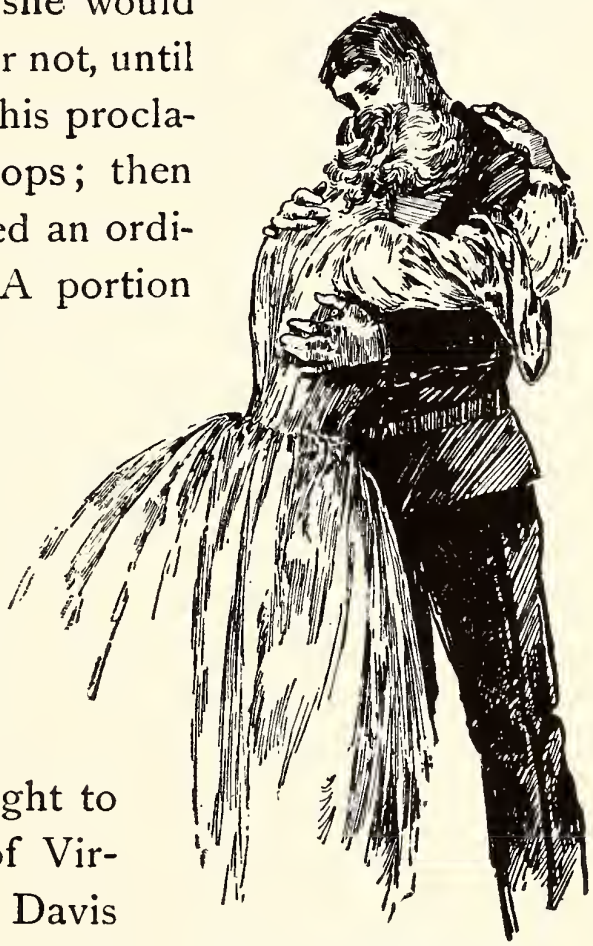
At the North, however, the President's proclama-

tion created the greatest enthusiasm. Almost everybody was ready to respond to his call for troops. Ministers left their pulpits, doctors their patients, lawyers their clients, merchants their counters, mechanics their workshops, and farmers their fields. Students who were mere boys left their schools and colleges, and even some girls disguised themselves as boys and enlisted. Noble women went into hospitals as nurses. Massachusetts — to her everlasting honor be it spoken — was the first in the field. The glorious Massachusetts Sixth left Boston, completely equipped, for the national capital, on the next day after the proclamation was issued. In less than two days, two more regiments were on the way, and regiment after regiment, from all the Northern States, made all possible haste to answer the President's call. War-meetings were held in every village, and men and money without stint were offered to the Government.

The Massachusetts Sixth passed through Baltimore, Maryland, on the 19th of April, where they were attacked by an armed secession mob; several of the soldiers were killed, and others severely wounded. It raised the indignation and excitement of the North to the highest pitch to learn that soldiers, on their way to protect the national capital, had been assailed and murdered in a State that professed to be loyal.

On the other hand, the South was in an equal

state of excitement. The seceded States were very anxious that Virginia should join them. The State convention was in session at this time, but she had not decided whether she would remain in the Union or not, until the President issued his proclamation calling for troops; then she immediately passed an ordinance of secession. A portion of the Virginians, however, who were loyal, would not agree to this, and formed a separate government, which President Lincoln recognized; for he thought the loyal people in Virginia ought to constitute the State of Virginia. But Jefferson Davis claimed the State as his, and removed his seat of government from Montgomery, Alabama, to Richmond, Virginia. He wanted to be nearer the North; for he declared his intention to push the war into the North, and said that whenever the war should open, the North, and not the South, should be the field of battle.



OFF TO THE WAR.

But his first object was to take Washington. For this purpose, very soon after the fall of Fort Sumter, all roads and avenues leading to the city of Washington were obstructed. The mails in every direction were stopped, and all the telegraph wires leading into the city were cut. The Potomac River was blockaded, and for several days the forces which the President had called out for the protection of the city of Washington were unable to pass through Maryland. Railroads were torn up, bridges burned, and Union soldiers killed.

Jefferson Davis now rapidly pushed an army into Virginia, and very soon twenty thousand men were on her soil. He also issued a proclamation offering letters of marque to all persons who wished to help the South and enrich themselves by plundering and destroying the ships of the United States. A letter of marque is a commission, or license, which a sovereign or the ruler of a nation grants to a subject to prey upon the ships of another nation with whom he is at war. But Jefferson Davis was not a *sovereign;* he was held to be only a private citizen and a subject of the United States, who had no more right to grant letters of marque than any other citizen or subject.

In order to prevent such proceedings, President Lincoln, on the 19th of April, issued a proclamation

saying that a competent force would be posted to prevent any vessel from entering or leaving any of the Rebel ports. This was called the blockade; and the President declared that anybody who should, under the authority of these pretended letters of marque, molest a vessel of the United States, or the persons and cargo on board of her, should be treated as a pirate.

The next day after issuing this proclamation the President called all his Cabinet together at the office of the Navy Department, and held a grand council with them to see what was best to be done in such an extraordinary state of affairs. Congress had adjourned, and there was not time to call an extra session. Something must be done at once. The President therefore told these gentlemen, who constituted his official family, that it was for him to choose whether, in the absence of Congress to devise measures for the public safety, he should sit still and let the Government go to ruin, or avail himself of the broader powers which the Constitution confers upon the President in time of an insurrection, and try to save it. They all concluded that, come what would, the country must be saved.

At the time a great many persons — and some of them were very good Union men, too — thought the President exceeded his power and did things which

he had no right to do. But whoever calmly and candidly reviews his whole course, from first to last, will probably say that in reality he was the wisest man in the whole country; and that if he had not taken just the very course he did take in the month of April, 1861, our nation would have been split into a thousand fragments, and to-day we should be without a name or a country.

Some California treasure-ships were daily expected, and it was feared that there were plans to rob them of their gold; so the President immediately despatched an armed revenue cutter to sea for their protection. He had no ships of war at hand, as you already know; Mr. Toucey had scattered them in every direction. The President therefore ordered the commandants of the navy-yards at Boston, Philadelphia, and New York, each to purchase or charter and arm five steamships as quickly as possible for the public defence. This would give him fifteen vessels to begin with. He also directed other parties to purchase and arm four more vessels, for the purpose of opening the passages by water to and from the capital.

At that time there were a great many Southerners in all the departments of the Government, and it was impossible for the President to tell who could be trusted. But that he might not be foiled in his plans, he directed that certain private gentlemen, of whose loyalty

there could be no doubt, should assist in carrying them into effect; and in order that his directions might reach these persons in safety, the President sent trusty messengers, who took a very roundabout way to reach their destinations, going from Washington across the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the Northern lakes, and thence to the sea-coast.

On the day of this famous Cabinet meeting that we have spoken of, the President directed that all the telegraph despatches which had accumulated in all the various offices during the preceding year should be seized, to see if they would throw any light upon the plans of the enemy. About this time the Southerners seized the arsenal at Harper's Ferry and the navy-yard at Gosport.

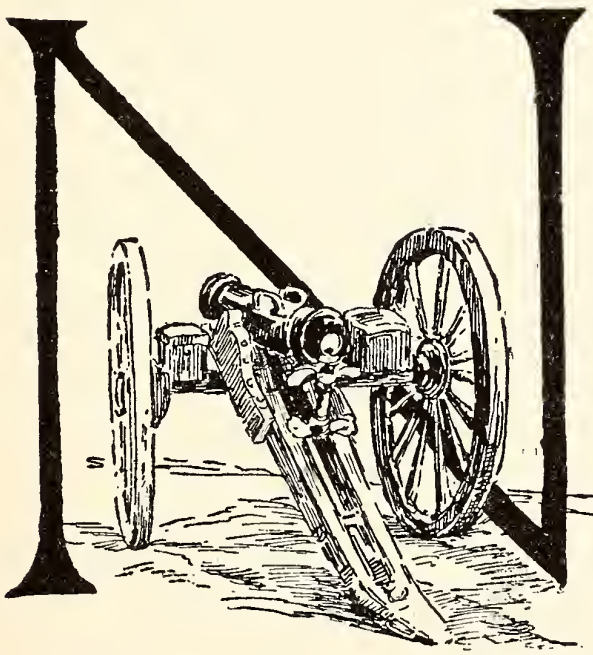
Washington was now a camp. It was filled with soldiers, and every preparation was being made to defend it from attack. But the President soon found that there was a great deal else to be done besides protecting Washington, and that the number of troops he had called out was by no means large enough to suppress the Rebellion. Most of the men who so nobly and promptly had answered the President's call expected to serve only three months, and had hastily left their business, intending to return to it at the expiration of that time; for at first the President and most of the loyal people had thought the Rebellion

would be crushed in less than that time. But they soon perceived their mistake.

The President, beginning at length to see how desperate the situation was, resolved to call out a large body of troops to serve for three years, if the war should last so long, that he might not be crippled and destitute of help when the time came for the "ninety-days" men to go home. So on the 3d of May he issued another proclamation, calling for 42,034 volunteers for three years, and ordering an addition of 22,114 officers and men to the regular army, and 18,000 seamen to the navy.

CHAPTER XVI.

Secession Sympathizers. — Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus. — Recognition of the Rebels as Belligerents by Foreign Powers.



NOW, my children, I must tell you of another trouble the President had to contend with. Although the majority of the people of all parties in all the non-slave-holding States, as well as a good many in the slave-holding States themselves, were loyal and responded most bravely and generously to the calls of the President, and resolved to send the last man and spend the last dollar, if need be, in aiding him to crush the Rebellion, — still there were also many persons

scattered over the country, in the very heart of the North even, who were disloyal in their hearts, and, without exactly joining the Confederates, aided them secretly in various ways, and sometimes quite openly.

The Confederates knew all this; and that was one of the things that made them so bold. They thought that even if no portion of the North actually went over to their side, they should nevertheless get a great deal of help from the North by means of these sympathizers. These persons were a great deal more dangerous and harder to contend with than the real Confederates. They were snakes in the grass; you could not see them, but could feel their bite. President Lincoln soon found out that these persons were likely to cause him a great deal of trouble.

There were a great many traitors among the officers of the army and navy, although the President said, in his first message to Congress, that not one of the common soldiers or sailors had been known to desert their country when the Rebellion broke out. It was very hard for the President that traitors still held important offices under the government. Some persons who held high civil offices were just as bad as the army and navy officers. You already know what difficulties the President encountered in passing troops through Maryland. The Government of the State and a majority of the people professed to be loyal;

but there was a big nest of secession in Baltimore, and these people determined that no troops should pass through that city or any part of the State, if they could prevent it. The President told the Mayor of the city that he would not march any more troops through Baltimore, if he could avoid it, but that they must pass through some portion of the State, or the capital must be abandoned; for he could not send troops safely by water.

Soon after this some secession sympathizers went to see the President, and told him they thought there ought to be a cessation of hostilities until Congress should assemble; they also told him that if any more troops should be marched through Maryland, seventy-five thousand persons would contest their passage. President Lincoln replied that there would be no cessation of hostilities until the Rebellion was crushed, and he presumed there was room enough on the soil of Maryland to bury seventy-five thousand men.

In order to prevent in some degree the mischief which active sympathizers were doing by giving the enemy aid and comfort, the President was obliged to resort to a measure which created a great excitement among his enemies, as well as among some of his friends. This measure was called "the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus."

Habeas corpus are two Latin words meaning "You may have the body"; and the intention of the writ is to deliver a person who has been falsely imprisoned. Thus, when any one thinks he has been imprisoned from some unjust cause or upon false accusation, he appeals to the writ of habeas corpus. This writ commands the sheriff, or any one else to whom it may be directed, to have the body of the person who has been deprived of his liberty immediately before some competent tribunal. The person who restrained the said prisoner must also be present, and he must bring with him the cause of the restraint, that all parties may be then and there lawfully judged.

This Act was originally passed in England to prevent the king from becoming a despot and unlawfully imprisoning his subjects; and it was thought so valuable by those persons who made the Constitution of the United States that they said it should never be suspended, "unless when, in case of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it." Mr. Lincoln thought the time had come when the public safety did require it, and he thought the Constitution gave him a right to suspend it; accordingly he suspended it whenever he thought proper. Many persons called him a despot, and said we should yet lose all our freedom, and the days of terror would come here, as they came in France in the time of the French Revolution.

Let us see now who the persons were that Mr. Lincoln deprived of the writ of habeas corpus. In the early part of May, the President, who knew that the small portion of Florida which we held in our possession was filled with disloyal people, directed the commander of our forces in that region to remove everybody from the United States forts that he suspected or considered dangerous, and to allow nobody to exercise any authority which was inconsistent with the authority of the United States; he also authorized him to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, if he should find it necessary. That is, if the commander thought the public safety required that a man should be imprisoned, he could not be released until President Lincoln himself thought proper to give him up. Mr. Lincoln said, in other words, "You may *not* have the body until I think proper to deliver up the man."

A few days after this, a man by the name of Merryman, who lived in Maryland and was known to be a Confederate sympathizer, was arrested and held in Fort McHenry. The commander of this fort was General Cadwallader. On the day of his arrest Mr. Merryman sent a petition to Chief-Justice Taney, begging him to issue the writ of habeas corpus. The Chief-Justice immediately complied with this request, and commanded General Cadwallader to bring the body of Merryman before him on the 27th of that month.

General Cadwallader sent word to the Chief-Justice that Mr. Merryman had been placed in his keeping by officers acting under the authority of the United States, and that said Merryman had been charged with various acts of treason. He was lieutenant of a band of Confederates, and had been heard frequently to say that he was willing to help anybody who was engaged in rebellion against the United States. General Cadwallader went on to say that he had been duly authorized by the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus whenever the public safety required it. He said he knew it was a very delicate trust; but the President had also instructed him that if mistakes were made in time of civil war, they should be made on the side of safety to the country; and consequently he should decline to obey the writ.

Upon that the Chief-Justice issued an attachment against General Cadwallader for contempt of court. The marshal who was appointed to serve this attachment reported to the Chief-Justice that the General would not admit him within the walls of his fort, and consequently he could not serve the writ against him. The Chief-Justice now admitted that he could not help himself; but he openly declared it as his opinion that the President had no power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, or to allow anybody else to suspend it. Thus it would seem as if the Chief-Justice,

instead of trying to help the President in his emergency, tried to hinder him all he could.

Another writ also was issued by Judge Giles of Baltimore to Major Morris of the Artillery at Fort McHenry. But the Major wrote to the Judge that he must refuse to obey the writ, because at the time it was issued, and for some time before, the city of Baltimore had been completely under the control of the enemy. United States soldiers had been *murdered* in her streets, and rebellious persons in the city had boldly said that they would capture Fort McHenry, if they could. The Legislature of the State was even then considering whether or not she should secede from the Union. The Major thought that all these things constituted rebellion, and that it was proper to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

Other rebellious persons were from time to time arrested in the same way in various parts of the country; but the President was very careful that the power should never be abused.

Mr. Lincoln had another very difficult duty to perform; namely, to give foreign nations to understand that the United States would expect all other nations to regard the South as rebels, and not as in any way, name, shape, or manner constituting an independent nation, with the right to carry on war. England, in the very beginning of the Rebellion, had called the

South "belligerents," and had declared her intention of remaining neutral; that is, she would neither help us nor the South. Now, a belligerent is a nation or a State that has the *right* to carry on war. So Mr. Lincoln said the Confederates were not belligerents, but insurgents, or rebels in arms against their own Government, and must be so regarded by all other nations. I will give you a little extract from a letter which Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, sent to Mr. Adams, our Minister to England, which will explain better than I can tell you what the Government said to England. Says Mr. Seward: —

"What is now seen in this country is the occurrence, by no means peculiar, but frequent in all countries, — more frequent, even, in Great Britain than here, — of an armed insurrection engaged in attempting to overthrow the regularly constituted and established Government. There is, of course, the employment of force by the Government to suppress the insurrection, as every other Government necessarily employs force in such cases. But these incidents by no means constitute a state of war, impairing the sovereignty of the Government, creating belligerent sections, and entitling foreign States to intervene, or act as neutrals, between them."

Communications expressing the same sentiments were sent to all foreign nations with whom we hold intercourse.

Thus you see, children, the President's hands were

pretty full. He not only had to watch the Confederates and use all sorts of unheard-of means to suppress them, — such as creating an army, improvising a navy, and setting aside the authority of the Chief-Justice himself; but he had to see that foreign nations did not encourage them to hold out in their strife, by admitting in any way that they had a right to take up arms against the United States.

CHAPTER XVII.

Special Session of Congress. — The President's Message. — Defeat of our Troops at Bull Run. — McClellan succeeds McDowell. — Union Successes on the Coast. — Disaster at Ball's Bluff. — Scott's Resignation. — McClellan succeeds Scott. — Dranesville. — The Trent Affair.

HEN the President issued his first proclamation calling for troops, he summoned Congress to assemble at the national capital at noon on the fourth day of July.

Doubtless the Rebels waited on purpose until Congress had adjourned, before they began hostilities. When they attacked Fort Sumter, the Senators and Representatives were scattered all over the Union. Probably the Southern leaders hoped in this way to get their

mischief so far under way before Congress could be called together, that it would be impossible to stop it The President feared this, too; for while he immedi ately summoned an extra session of Congress, he did not wait two or three months till the Congressmen could meet at Washington, and so let the country go to ruin, for fear that in trying to save it he might do something which some persons would find fault with as being unconstitutional; but he took the liberty of doing everything which his excellent judgment and cool, clear common-sense told him must be done at home and abroad to save the nation. After a time the Southerners found that they had neither a coward nor a nobody to deal with.

Congress met on the 4th of July, in response to the President's summons; and he immediately sent in his Message, in which he described the state of the country and his own proceedings in regard to it, and also advised Congress to place such means at the disposal of the Government as would quickly end the contest and put down the rebellion.

For this purpose the President thought it would require four hundred thousand men and four hundred millions of dollars. The Confederates had become so bent on their resistance that some persons began to think it would be better to have no more fighting, but to let them go in peace if they wanted to. But Presi-

dent Lincoln did not think it was possible to let them go; and on this point he said in his Message: —

"The nation purchased with money the countries out of which several of these States were formed; is it just that they shall go off without leave and without refunding? The nation paid very large sums (in the aggregate, I believe, nearly a hundred millions) to relieve Florida of the aboriginal tribes; is it just that she shall now be off without consent or without making any return? The nation is now in debt for money applied to the benefit of these so-called seceding States, in common with the rest; is it just that either creditors shall go unpaid, or the remaining States pay the whole? A part of the present national debt was contracted to pay the old debts of Texas; is it just that she shall leave and pay no part of this herself?

"Again, if one State may secede, so may another; and when all shall have seceded, none is left to pay the debts. Is this quite just to creditors? Did we notify them of this sage view of ours when we borrowed their money? If we now recognize this doctrine by allowing the seceders to go in peace, it is difficult to see what we can do if others choose to go or to extort terms upon which they will promise to remain."

Remarking on another point of controversy, the President said: —

"Our popular Government has often been called an experiment. Two points in it our people have already settled, — the successful establishing and the successful administering

of it. One still remains, — its successful maintenance against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it. It is now for them to demonstrate to the world that those who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion; that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets; and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided, there can be no successful appeal back to bullets; that there can be no successful appeal, except to ballots themselves, at succeeding elections. Such will be a great lesson of peace; teaching men that what they cannot take by an election, neither can they take by a war; teaching all the folly of being the beginners of a war."

Now, you know, children, that the South bitterly learned the very lesson that Mr. Lincoln here teaches. They learned that what they could not obtain by their votes, they could not get by their bullets; and they learned their folly in beginning the war. Mr. Lincoln closes his Message by saying: —

"It was with the deepest regret that the Executive found the duty of employing the war power in defence of the Government forced upon him. He could but perform this duty or surrender the existence of the Government. As a private citizen, the Executive could not have consented that these institutions shall perish; much less could he, in betrayal of so vast and so sacred a trust as these free people have confided to him. He felt that he had no moral right to shrink, or even to count the chances of his own life, in what might follow. In full view of his great responsibility, he has so far

done what he has deemed his duty. You will now, according to your own judgment, perform yours.

"And having thus chosen our course, without guile and with pure purpose, let us renew our trust in God, and go forward without fear and with manly hearts."

Congress remained in session a month and two days. It adopted the strongest and most earnest measures for the suppression of the Rebellion, approved of everything the President had done, and gave him even more power than he had asked for to carry on the war. The people were delighted at these proceedings, and felt sure that if such harmony continued to exist between the President and Congress, the Rebellion would soon be crushed. But, alas! it was a greater work than they had anticipated. All this time, since the fight at Sumter, the military on either side had not been idle. The South was very enthusiastic for carrying on the war, and thousands of its young men had volunteered. The greater portion of this army was pushed up toward the Northern border, and the leaders made the greatest exertions to induce Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee to join them. But the President was so judicious in his movements that all but the last-named State refrained from actually joining them.

All through the latter part of spring and the early part of the summer the Confederates had been march-

ing troops into Virginia, extending their lines from Harper's Ferry to Norfolk. They had also planted batteries all along the right bank of the Potomac, below Washington, and thus that city was in great danger. By the last of June they had taken up a very strong position along a small stream called Bull Run, their army numbering some thirty-five thousand men. These people knew every inch of Virginia, and had well chosen their ground. The situation was one of great natural strength, and it was very difficult to approach it with an army, on account of woods and the uneven surface of the country. They had also protected it with heavy earthworks. Our people had observed the movements of the enemy with great concern, and at length it was determined to attack this force and drive it away from the vicinity of Washington. Everybody believed this could be done, and that it would put an end to the war.

About the middle of July the Union forces, which were stationed in front of Washington under the command of General McDowell, took up the line of march for Manassas Junction. On the 21st a terrific battle was fought. Until late in the afternoon it was thought the victory would be ours, when suddenly the tide turned in favor of the South, and our army, seized with a terrible panic, was not only defeated, but *utterly routed.*

Many of the soldiers turned and ran for Washington, in spite of all the efforts of their officers to restrain them. But it must be remembered that most of these men came from peaceful pursuits, and had never been in a battle before. It is a very different thing to be in a battle from what it is to stay at home and talk and read about one. At the time, both General McDowell and the soldiers were severely blamed; but good judges have since thought that nobody was to blame, — that all did as well as they could under the circumstances. There had been considerable skirmishing and some small engagements before in various places; but this was the first great battle of the war, and our failure took everybody by surprise.

All had counted on victory as sure, and we could hardly believe the terrible despatches which told us of our great disappointment. But nobody was discouraged, or thought of such a thing as giving up, although people began to see that it would take more than one battle to end the war, and that the only way was to try again, and keep on trying until God should see fit to bless us with success.

The Confederates pursued our forces and established their pickets within a few miles of Washington, and before the end of the summer had a large army in front of the city. General McDowell had been so unfortunate at Bull Run that it was thought best to

place another commander over the Union troops. General McClellan was considered the most suitable man, and the day after the battle of Bull Run he was recalled from Western Virginia, where he had been successfully skirmishing with the enemy, and was placed in command of the army of the Potomac. Every effort was now made to reorganize and strengthen this army, and put it in a condition to push back the enemy.

On the 16th of August the President issued a proclamation forbidding all intercourse with the seceded States, and on the same day General Wool took command at Fortress Monroe, where a considerable body of our troops had been for some time under General Butler. The Government now determined to retake some of the places along the Atlantic coast which the enemy had seized and fortified.

For this purpose, in the latter part of August, a fleet of war vessels and transports left Fortress Monroe to make a combined military and naval attack upon Forts Hatteras and Clark, which had been erected on the north side of Hatteras Inlet. The expedition, under the command of General Butler and Flag-Officer Stringham, was entirely successful; and after a bombardment of a day and a half, both forts were captured, together with several hundred prisoners, a large number of arms, and other valuable prop-

erty. In October a similar expedition was planned for the capture of Port Royal, an island on the coast of South Carolina, which the Government wanted for a naval rendezvous. Port Royal has a very fine harbor, where vessels drawing twenty-three feet of water can ride at anchor. But the approach to this harbor from the sea is across a dangerous bar or shoal.

Before the war, the channel across this bar was marked by buoys, which made the passage over it quite easy; but the Southerners, knowing that this would be a very fine position for the Government to occupy, had torn up all the old way-marks, in the hope that if any of our vessels attempted to sail in, they would be wrecked on the bar. The Yankees, however, were a match for them. This expedition, commanded by Flag-Officer Du Pont and General Sherman, sailed from Fortress Monroe on the 29th of October.

On the third day after sailing, a heavy gale set in, which scattered the fleet in every direction. The wind blew like a hurricane for thirty hours; but after it subsided, the ships found one another again, and in due time arrived off Port Royal bar. The first thing Du Pont did was to find the old channel and replace the buoys; he had no idea of being wrecked on the bar, to begin with. The small vessels that could sail

in shallow water were first sent over, and were met by a fleet of small hostile steamers that had come out to dispute their passage; but the Yankees soon put them to flight. The next day all the big frigates crossed the bar and got ready for a fight, which it was expected would come off the next morning; but as it stormed very hard, Du Pont concluded to wait another day.

At half-past nine o'clock on the morning of the 7th of November, Du Pont, at the head of his fleet, steamed up close to Bay Point, and poured a broadside into Fort Beauregard, which commanded one side of the harbor; then steaming around to the other side, he paid the same compliment to Fort Walker. In this manner all the fleet sailed around in a circle, firing first at one fort and then at the other, till two o'clock, when the enemy were quite ready to yield. They did not stop to be taken prisoners, but ran off, leaving everything but their muskets. The forts were thus captured, with a large quantity of war material.

While these successes were being gained, another disaster befell the army of the Potomac. When General McClellan took command of this army, it numbered about fifty thousand men; but fresh troops poured in faster than the Government could arm them, notwithstanding every armory in the country was filled with men working at the top of their speed

day and night and Sundays too, and the Government had sent agents to foreign countries to purchase arms. By the middle of October such had been the activity and patriotism of the people that the Army of the Potomac numbered more than a hundred and fifty thousand men, with a large artillery force. The troops were in splendid condition, in excellent discipline, and under the command of very skilful officers. All, officers and men, were alike impatient to move.

In October General McClellan ordered a portion of our forces to cross the Potomac in the direction of a town called Leesburg. There was a brigade of Confederates in this place, and he wished to make a movement which would compel them to leave it.

On the Virginia side the bank of the river opposite Harrison's Island is very steep and about eighty feet high, and is called Ball's Bluff. Our troops were met at this place by the enemy in great force, and repulsed with heavy loss. The men fought bravely; but the enemy outnumbered them, and they were not reinforced as they should have been. The people were very much provoked at this disaster, because they thought the affair was badly managed, and the lives of our brave soldiers needlessly sacrificed. Soon after this General McClellan was called upon to assume still higher duties.

On the last day of October, General Scott, who was

very infirm and too old to take the field in person, resigned his position. The Government was very sorry to part with the services of so valuable and distinguished a man; but it knew he was too feeble to bear such an amount of care as must rest upon the General-in-Chief in such disastrous times, and it was obliged, therefore, to accept his resignation. The President, however, thought the brave old General, who had rendered such important aid to his country, ought to retire with the highest honors that could be shown him. So he and his Cabinet waited upon General Scott in person, and expressed the deepest regret that the country must part with him. The President also issued an order that the General's pay, subsistence, and allowances should continue without reduction.

General McClellan was now appointed General-in-Chief of the armies of the United States, but he also retained personal command of the Army of the Potomac. The weather was fine during all this autumn, and the President and the people and the soldiers were alike impatient for a movement of this army; but for some reason or other, McClellan thought it was not best to move. Toward the latter part of December, however, a sharp action occurred at a little village called Dranesville. There was a quantity of forage at this place, which McClellan wished to secure.

Accordingly General Ord was despatched with a brigade and a large number of wagons to gather it. The Confederate General Stuart was bound for the same place on the same errand. A short but very spirited contest took place between the two armies, in which General Ord was successful; he returned at night to his camp, with forty loads of forage. After this the Army of the Potomac went into winter quarters.

The people were very much dissatisfied that no advance had been made upon the enemy all that glorious autumn. Our army was known to be far superior in number to the Confederates, and yet the enemy was allowed to come nearer and nearer to Washington. Many persons blamed the President and his Cabinet, and thought they purposely hindered McClellan. But this was a great mistake. The President was more anxious for a movement than any one else, and did all he could to assist McClellan. In the meantime our forces in other parts of the country had not been idle; and at length, after a series of combined movements, the Confederates were driven out of Western Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri. On the 3d of December our forces took possession of Ship Island.

The enemy all this time had been as busy as bees, strengthening themselves in every way they could think of. Their cruisers had infested our seas, and

destroyed a large number of our merchant-vessels. Their so-called Congress had met at Richmond, and passed acts to raise a large amount of money, and to empower Jefferson Davis to accept a great number of volunteers. It was impossible to find out much about their plans, but enough was known to render it certain that they intended to make a very determined resistance. They appointed commissioners to several European nations, asking those powers to recognize them as belonging to the family of nations, and to make treaties of amity and commerce with them. Messrs. J. M. Mason and John Slidell were sent as commissioners to France and England.

These gentlemen had succeeded in getting to Havana in a steamer which had run the blockade at Charleston. Upon their arriving at Havana, the British mail-steamer "Trent," bound for St. Thomas, took them on board; from thence they were to proceed to Europe. Captain Wilkes of the United States frigate "San Jacinto," who was sailing about in these waters in search of Confederate cruisers, came up with the "Trent" the next day, and firing a shot across her bows, hailed her, and told her he wished to send a boat on board. So Captain Wilkes sent his lieutenant on board the "Trent," who, by the Captain's order, demanded to see the passenger-list. This request the captain of the "Trent" refused to

grant. The lieutenant, however, soon found out to a certainty that Messrs. J. M. Mason and John Slidell, with their secretaries, were on board the "Trent," and he told these gentlemen they must leave their present quarters, and go with him on board the "San Jacinto." This they all stoutly refused to do, but were at length compelled to obey the order of Captain Wilkes.

After the removal of the commissioners, the "Trent" was allowed to proceed on her voyage; but these gentlemen, with their secretaries, were brought to the United States, and placed for safe-keeping in Fort Warren. Many people in the United States admired the boldness and courage of Captain Wilkes in capturing these Southern emissaries, and the Secretary of the Navy sent him a complimentary letter.

But in some respects the affair was not quite legal or warranted, and England was so very angry that many persons feared it would be the cause of a war. England sent us word that the only redress which would satisfy her would be that the United States should make her a suitable apology, and immediately liberate these four gentlemen and place them under British protection. The people thought our Government would not do this; but Mr. Lincoln said one war at a time was plenty. So he directed

Mr. Seward to say to England that the Government of the United States would cheerfully liberate these four persons, because Captain Wilkes had acted upon his own responsibility in capturing them, instead of sending them before a legal tribunal, where they could have a trial.

Thus, by the wise forbearance of the President, we were saved from war with England; and England herself was so pleased at this action of our Government that she did not recognize the Southern Confederacy.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The President's Order. —Yorktown. —Williamsburg. — Advance of the Army. — McClellan's Retreat to James River. — Pope succeeds McClellan. — McClellan succeeds Pope. — South Mountain. — Antietam. — Burnside succeeds McClellan. — Union Successes in the West. — Capture of New Orleans. — Report by Congress on the Conduct of the War.

HAVE thus endeavored children, to relate to you the principal events of the year 1861. Now we will glance briefly at the most important military events of 1862.

You have seen that the greater part of 1861 was spent by both sides in getting ready to carry on a tremendous war. The Southerners were determined to beat. They meant to have their own way. We, on the other hand, were as much determined that they should not beat, — that this glorious country should never go to ruin. Therefore, when the Northern people had been so generous and offered the Government everything it wanted to prosecute the war, men and money without stint, they expected our soldiers would begin immediately to fight in earnest, and end the war as soon as possible.

Perhaps the people were too impatient, and did not understand so well as the General-in-Chief what was proper to be done. You will recollect how disappointed they were that there was no movement of the Army of the Potomac during the autumn of 1861. There was a great deal else to be done in various other parts of the country; but everybody thought the main contest must be between our Army of the Potomac and the Southern army in Virginia. We wanted to take their capital, Richmond, and they wanted to take our capital, Washington. We had fortified Washington, and the Southerners had fortified Richmond; but our army was larger, better equipped, and better fed, and we wanted it to push forward and make a grand descent upon Richmond.

It seemed to those who stayed at home that this might be done, or, at all events, that an attempt to do it should be made. The President was very impatient, indeed, that the contest should begin; so he selected the 22d of February, Washington's Birthday, as the time for a general movement of all the Union armies against the enemy. The President, by virtue of his position, was commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and he had a right to give any order he chose. But besides issuing this general order to all the land and naval forces, he sent a special order to General McClellan, telling him that after providing

for the safety of Washington he should form the remainder of the Army of the Potomac into an expedition to seize and occupy a place on the railroad southwest of Manassas Junction. The enemy had a large army in front of Washington, and the President thought that by thus making a flank attack our army could defeat it, and rush upon Richmond, and so break the main strength of the Rebellion.

General McClellan did not approve of the President's plan at all, and proposed an entirely different one, to which Mr. Lincoln at length consented. But before anything could be done about carrying it into operation, the enemy marched away from Manassas of their own accord. McClellan now proposed a new plan of operations, to which the President gave his consent, with the provision that Washington must be left secure, and a sufficient force left at Manassas to prevent the enemy from retaking it. He then begged McClellan to move the remainder of his army immediately in pursuit of the enemy by *some* route.

The President was much pained that our army had waited so long with the enemy right in front of it at Manassas, and also much mortified that the enemy had got safely off, not only without being attacked, but without their plans being even suspected. He thought, therefore, that it was high time to do something, and begged General McClellan not to delay.

The General now proceeded to Fortress Monroe with the main body of his army, and advanced upon Yorktown. This place had been strongly fortified, and was held by the Confederate General Magruder, with a force of about eleven thousand men. General McClellan, however, supposed there was a much larger force, and so, instead of making a direct attack, commenced preparations for a siege. In the meantime the enemy were gradually concentrating at Richmond. After the siege of Yorktown had continued a month, it was discovered one morning that the enemy were missing. McClellan immediately pursued them, and came up with them the next day at Williamsburg, where a sharp action occurred, in which our army was victorious; and the enemy fled for Richmond.

On the 9th of May the enemy evacuated Norfolk, and the next day General Wool took possession of the city. The Rebels now blew up their famous iron-clad "Merrimac," which had done a great deal of mischief, and had held all our naval force at Fortress Monroe in check. Our gunboats now tried to open the navigation of the James River; but when they had arrived within eight miles of Richmond, a battery opened fire upon them at Drury's Bluff, and they could go no farther.

McClellan gradually pushed his army up the penin-

sula, and by the 20th of May the main body had reached the Chickahominy, which is a small muddy river from six to sixteen miles distant from Richmond. On either side of the stream are forests and marshy lands, which, when the river overflows its banks, become impassable swamps. The enemy had entrenched themselves, for the defence of Richmond, behind this swampy stream. It was necessary to build bridges and roads, to enable our army to cross the river and swamps. The ground was so marshy that the men were obliged to work up to their waists in water; and many became ill and died from the exposure. But the brave fellows never shrunk from any duty; and six bridges and many miles of road were built. In the mean time battles were fought at Hanover Court House and Fair Oaks, both of which proved Union victories.

A VOLUNTEER.

McClellan at length became convinced that he

could not hold his position, and resolved to retreat to James River. On the afternoon of the 26th of June the enemy attacked our forces at Mechanicsville, which was the beginning of a most terrific contest of seven days. All this time our forces were retreating; they arrived finally at James River, and fell back to Harrison's Landing.

On the 8th of July President Lincoln reviewed the troops at this place, and held a long consultation with General McClellan in regard to what should be done next. General McClellan was at length placed in command of the troops for the defence of Washington, and General Pope assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. After a severe defeat at Manassas, Pope was relieved, at his own request, and McClellan was reappointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac.

In the month of September it was found that Lee was invading Maryland. McClellan marched immediately to attack him, and on the 14th of that month the battle of South Mountain was fought, which proved a Union victory. Three days after occurred the battle of Antietam, in which the enemy was again defeated, and Lee and his army recrossed the Potomac into Virginia.

On the 1st of October the President again visited the army, to learn for himself its strength and posi-

tion. On the 6th instant he sent a *peremptory* order to McClellan to cross the Potomac and give battle to the enemy or drive him south. The President said to him: "You *must* move *now*, while the roads are good." This order was not obeyed for nearly a month, McClellan alleging various reasons for the delay.

During this time many communications passed between the President and the General, and the President tried with all his might to remove all the difficulties which McClellan said prevented him from moving. In the mean time the Rebel General Stuart made a raid into Pennsylvania with a force of about twenty-five hundred cavalry, and after helping himself to clothing, horses, and other supplies, and burning up the railroad-station, returned, having ridden completely around our army without being molested.

Finally, on the 5th of November, McClellan sent word to the President that he had crossed his army into Virginia. But before this the people had become very impatient that something should be done, and the President himself was so perplexed at McClellan's delays, that he had determined to remove him, and place somebody else in command of the Army of the Potomac. So it happened that on the same day on which McClellan sent his despatch to the President an order was issued, relieving the Gen-

eral from command, and appointing General Burnside as his successor.

This closed McClellan's connection with the war. I have here noticed very briefly, children, some of the principal events of his campaign. You will read in other books full and interesting accounts of his entire career; but in so small a work as this only a small space can be given to any general. McClellan was very unfortunate, and some persons have said that his failures were owing to President Lincoln's failure to sustain him. But whoever will take the trouble to read the official papers on both sides will see that this is an unjust accusation. The President not only sustained him to the utmost of his ability, but kept him in command a long time after he was urged in the strongest manner to remove him. He also tried, in the fulness of his generous heart, to shield McClellan from blame, when the public voice was loud against him after his retreat to James River. At a war-meeting in Washington the President said:

"I know General McClellan wishes to be successful, and I know he does not wish it any more than the Secretary of War for him; and both of them together no more than I wish it. General McClellan has sometimes asked for things that the Secretary of War did not give him. General McClellan is not to blame for asking what he wanted and needed, and the Secretary of War is not to blame for not giving when he

had none to give. And I say here, as far as I know, the Secretary of War has withheld no one thing at any time in my power to give him. I have no accusation against him. I believe he is a brave and able man, and I stand here, as justice requires me to do, to take upon myself what has been charged on the Secretary of War as withholding from him."

This was the President's noble disposition. He was always more ready to take all blame upon himself than to allow it to rest upon others.

General Burnside, the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, fought an engagement at Fredericksburg, on the 13th of December, which was one of the worst Union disasters of the war.

We will now return to the beginning of the year 1862, and see what was accomplished by the Union army in other portions of the country. To enable you to understand what I am about to relate, we must go back a little into the year 1861. If you will take some good map and look out all the places that are mentioned, you will have a much better idea of what was done.

The enemy held control of a great portion of the Mississippi River, and the President thought one of the most important things to be done was to take it from them. A base of operations was established at Cairo, Illinois, at which place the Ohio River unites with the Mississippi. General Grant was in command here, and a big fleet of gun and mortar boats

was in preparation. For several months after the war began, Kentucky called herself neutral, and said she would have nothing to do with the contest in any way; but in the early part of September, 1861, Bishop Polk, then a Confederate general, marched into Kentucky, and took possession of Columbus and Hickman, on the Mississippi. The Confederates now held all the Mississippi below these places to its very mouth. Polk began to fortify these points, when Grant immediately marched into Kentucky and took possession of Paducah.

Soon after this, the Confederate General Zollicoffer marched into the southeastern part of the State, and General Buckner took possession of Bowling Green. This was a very important strategic point, as it was a place of great natural strength, and also at the junction of the railroads from Memphis and Nashville to Louisville. These positions which the enemy had taken formed a part of a line of posts reaching from the Mississippi River to Cumberland Gap. The most important military positions on this line were Columbus on the Mississippi, Fort Henry on the Tennessee, Fort Donelson on the Cumberland, Bowling Green, and Mill Spring. We are now prepared to understand what took place in this part of the country in the year 1862.

On the 19th of January General Thomas gained a

decided victory at Mill Spring; the Confederates were put to flight, and Zollicoffer was killed. On the 6th of February Captain Foote, with a fleet of gunboats, captured Fort Henry. Buckner now thought it would not be safe for him to remain at Bowling Green; so he proceeded with all his troops to Fort Donelson. But Grant was after him, and the fort was captured, together with Buckner himself and sixteen thousand men. Columbus was soon after evacuated, and also Nashville, the capital of Tennessee.

The Legislature fled from Nashville to Memphis; and Andrew Johnson, who was then a Senator, was appointed by President Lincoln Military Governor of the State. After Columbus and Nashville had been abandoned, the Confederates took up some very strong positions on the Mississippi, at New Madrid and Island Number Ten; they also fortified themselves at Corinth. General Pope took New Madrid from them on the 14th of March, and immediately after Flag-Officer Foote, with a fleet of gunboats, attacked Island Number Ten. This position was very strong, however, and held out for more than three weeks; but at length it surrendered.

In the mean time Grant was pushing for Corinth. On the 6th of April his advance-guard was attacked at Shiloh, near Pittsburg Landing, and a most terrific fight occurred, which lasted for two days. The Con-

federates were badly whipped, and fled for Corinth. This was a very strong position, and they remained there until the 30th of May; then they retreated, and General Pope went in pursuit. After Island Number Ten was captured, the enemy made a stand at Fort Wright, which is about fifty miles above Memphis. Our gunboats soon attacked this place, and the fort was abandoned on the 4th of June. Two days later Memphis surrendered. Thus, you see, we had taken quite a large portion of the upper part of the Mississippi.

But this was not all of the Mississippi that had been gained. Still more important victories had been won down at its very mouth. The river was commanded, below the city of New Orleans, by two very strong forts, one on each side, called Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip. Between these two forts a chain had been thrown across the river. On the 16th of April Commodore Farragut, with an immense fleet of gunships and mortar-boats, moved up the river for the capture of New Orleans.

It was a most difficult and perilous undertaking, but the Commodore did not shrink. He bombarded the forts, broke the heavy iron chain, ran past the enemy's batteries, destroyed the rams and gunboats, and in seven days had captured the city, which he occupied on the 25th instant.

While all these things were going on, General Burnside had been doing great things in still another part of the country. A combined military and naval expedition, commonly called the "Burnside Expedition," sailed from Hampton Roads on the 12th of January, under General Burnside and Flag-Officer Goldsborough, for the capture of Roanoke Island, in North Carolina. A terrible tempest delayed the fleet, but at length, on the 7th of February, the strong intrenchments of Roanoke Island were stormed and the forts captured. Many of the enemy were taken prisoners. On the next day our vessels sailed up the sound to Elizabeth City, destroyed the enemy's gunboats, and took possession of several towns. On the 14th of March General Burnside followed up his successes by fighting the battle of Newbern, capturing the city, and gaining a very important victory.

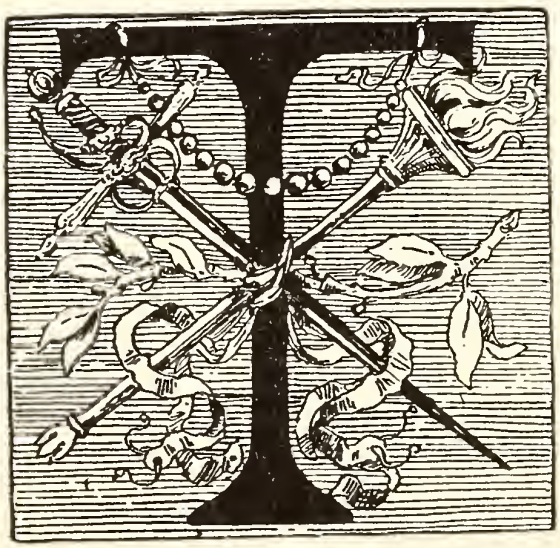
Du Pont was also doing his part by capturing the principal seaports of Florida; he also took Fort Pulaski, on the river Savannah. In March General Curtis gained a splendid victory at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. In the first part of October a very severe battle was fought near Corinth, which the Confederates attempted to retake; but they were driven back with great loss by our forces, under General Rosecrans.

At the close of the year a committee of Congressmen, appointed to report concerning the conduct of

the war, said that during the autumn of 1861 and the winter and spring of 1862 the Union troops had been for the most part successful, except the Army of the Potomac; and that if the success of that army had been as great as other branches of our forces, the Rebellion would have been well-nigh if not entirely overthrown by the end of the year 1862.

CHAPTER XIX.

The President's Position in regard to Slavery. — Meeting of Congress. — Confiscation Bill. — The Border States. — Slavery in the Territories and District of Columbia abolished. — Emancipation Proclamation. — Confederate Cruisers. — Action of Mr. Adams.



HIS is all the space that we can devote to the military events of 1862. Now we shall see what else the President did to bring back peace and harmony to the country.

You will remember that before the war actually broke out the leaders of the Rebellion had done their utmost to inflame the minds of the Southern people against President Lincoln, telling them that he intended to rob them of their slaves and deprive them of all their lawful rights under the Constitution.

After the war commenced, these reports were circulated more vigorously than ever. The South was told that the whole object of the war, on the part of the President and the North, was not, as was pretended, for the preservation of the Union and the Constitution, but for the emancipation of the slaves. Jefferson Davis and other leaders of the Rebellion had told this story over and over again, coloring it with the greatest ingenuity, in order to excite the Southern people, and to induce the slave-holding States which had not yet seceded to go over to their side.

On the other hand, President Lincoln assured the South, as soon as he assumed the government, that he had no intention of interfering with slavery where it already existed, and that he believed he had no lawful right to do such a thing. In the early part of the war he still adhered to this position. He intended that the whole nation, South as well as North, should see that he meant what he said; that the whole object of the war was to put down an armed rebellion; and that as soon as the Rebels were willing to lay down their arms and obey the laws of the land, the war would no longer exist. The slave States which had not yet joined the rebellion, and which were called the border States, could not help seeing that the President was sincere; so instead of seced-

ing, they waited to see what he would do, and finally sent a great many Union soldiers into the field.

At first fugitive slaves were not allowed to come within the lines of our armies; but when this could no longer be prevented, the Government proclaimed that whenever it employed the slaves, all loyal masters should be paid for their services. Distinguished generals also proclaimed, in various parts of the country, that not only would they refrain from interfering with slaves, but if any insurrection should arise among them, the Union army would, with an iron hand, assist to crush it. President Lincoln thought that by being thus forbearing and patient with the South, reason would after a time get the better of her passions, and she would see her mad folly in its true light, and come back into the Union.

But all this kindness of the President did not appear to have any good effect upon the Rebels. They not only fought harder than ever against their country, but tried to make England and France believe that the President was in favor of slavery. The President's course, however, no doubt prevented the border States from joining the Rebellion, and thus it was a very wise course; for if all the slave States had seceded, probably the country must have been ruined.

The President pursued this mild plan toward the

South all through the first year of the war and part of the seeond; but by and by, when he saw how bitter and determined the Southerners were, he began to think the good of the whole country demanded that more vigorous measures should be undertaken. It was well known everywhere that the slaves were of great assistance to the South. They cultivated the plantations while their masters were gone to the war. Many of them were also at work digging trenches and building fortifications, thus giving the South many more soldiers than she would have had if white men had been obliged to do all this work.

Congress met as usual in December, the last month of the year 1861, and all through the winter of 1861 and 1862 held a great many discussions upon the growing resistance of the South. Various measures were proposed to weaken their power. At length a very important bill was passed called the "Confiscation Bill." This bill gave the Rebels to understand that if they persisted in rebellion, their property would be seized for the benefit of the United States, and their slaves would be freed. It also gave the President power to employ as many persons of African descent as he might think proper, to aid in suppressing the Rebellion.

There had been an active and influential party at the North which, ever since the contest began, had

loudly asserted that slavery was the whole cause of the Rebellion, and that the only way to end the war was to crush slavery. As soon as this bill was passed, the President was beset by delegation after delegation, begging him immediately to emancipate every slave in the land, to arm these slaves and place them in the Union ranks, and so end the war at once. Many persons called him slow, and accused him of being very remiss in his duty because he did not pursue this course.

But the President never did anything rashly. Nobody could coax or threaten him into doing anything, until he saw it clearly to be his duty. He felt that he was President of the whole United States, of the South as well as the North, and like a wise father of a family determined that every member of it should be treated fairly and justly, however bad and rebellious he might be. And so, instead of being violent and harsh, and declaring at once, without a moment's warning, that all the slaves should be free, he first reasoned in the kindest and calmest manner with the slave-holders. He told them their own good sense should teach them that if the war continued, their slaves must become free; and rather than have the war continue, he was willing to buy their slaves, paying a fair price for them. He sent a resolution to Congress to the same effect.

The President thought that if Congress would make such an offer, perhaps the border States, which had not yet joined the Rebellion, might accept it. He thought it was a fair offer for both sides; for if the war continued, all the slaves must after a time become free, and those slave-holders who had not joined in the Rebellion ought to be paid for their slaves.

On the other hand, he told Congress it would not cost so much to buy the slaves as it would to continue the war; so the proposition would be as much for the advantage of one part of the country as of the other. The President's idea was that if all the border States should free their slaves, the rebellious States would see that it was perfectly certain that they would never join them, and so the enemy would become discouraged and give over the contest. Congress was pleased with the President's resolution, and adopted it; and almost all the loyal people approved of it.

The President was determined that the slave-holders should have a fair opportunity to accept this offer before anything more decided should be done. He felt very anxious indeed that they should accept it, so much so that just before Congress adjourned he invited all the Senators and Representatives who were present from the slave-holding States

to come and see him at the White House, where he could talk to them by themselves. He urged these Congressmen, in the kindest and most earnest manner, upon their return home, to try to persuade the people of their respective States to accept this offer. His whole address to them was very fine. The following is one sentence of it: —

"How much better for you as seller and the nation as buyer, to sell out and buy out that without which the war could never have been, than to sink both the thing to be sold and the price of it in cutting one another's throats!"

The Congressmen listened to all the President said, and some of them agreed with him; but the greater part of them did not. They thought no excuse could be strong enough to warrant meddling with slavery. So the time came for Congress to adjourn, and all the Congressmen went home. But while it remained in session, two very important things were done about slavery, of which I have not yet told you. A bill was passed declaring that slavery should never exist in any of the Territories of the United States, and slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia.

You will remember, children, that this was one of the things Mr. Lincoln voted for the first time he took his seat in Congress; and now, when he was President, he had the satisfaction of seeing it accomplished.

Congress had no sooner adjourned than the President was assailed harder than ever on all sides, by private letters, by the public press, and by delegations, begging him to emancipate the slaves.

In reply to all this, the President said his paramount object was to *save the Union*, and not either to save or to destroy slavery. He said: "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that." This was the President's first, great, and only object in all that he did and in all that he left undone throughout the war, — to "*save the Union.*" If the Union were destroyed, all was lost; if that could be saved, everything else was of small consequence compared with it.

At last, after the most earnest prayers to God for direction, and the most calm and careful deliberation of the whole subject, the President made up his mind that in order to save the Union he must do that which the world now recognizes was the crowning glory of his life. On the 22d of September he issued his proclamation, to take effect on the 1st of January, 1863, freeing the slaves of all persons in Rebellion against the United States. By this act he placed his name at the head of all great names, down to the end of time. He had been battling all his life for the

freedom of all men, and as a reward for his simple-hearted fidelity God placed him in that grand, sublime position where *by a stroke of his pen he freed a whole race for all time to come.* The greatest despot never wielded such power as God gave to our Republican President. The following is the most important part of the Proclamation of Emancipation: —

"I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America and Commander-in-chief of the army and navy thereof, do hereby proclaim and declare that hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the constitutional relation between the United States and each of the States and the people thereof, in which States that relation is or may be suspended or disturbed.

"That it is my purpose, upon the next meeting of Congress, to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tendering pecuniary aid to the free acceptance or rejection of all slave States so-called, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted, or thereafter may voluntarily adopt, immediate or gradual abolishment of slavery within their respective limits; and that the effort to colonize persons of African descent, with their consent, upon this continent or elsewhere, with the previously obtained consent of the governments existing there, will be continued.

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held

PRESIDENT LINCOLN SIGNING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be THEN, THENCEFORWARD, AND FOREVER FREE; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom."

This proclamation created a great excitement, not only all over this country but, we may say, all over the world. All the President's enemies and all friends of the South said it was now plainly to be seen that what they had always declared was true, — that the whole object of the war was to oppress the Southern people and emancipate the slaves. But nearly all the loyal people regarded it as a necessary war measure, and the very best one the President could have taken to weaken the Rebellion. The first day of January following, the President issued another proclamation confirming this, and designating what portions of the country were then in rebellion. Some other important items were added, and the proclamation closed with these solemn words: —

"And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind, and the gracious favor of Almighty God."

The President had another trouble in the year 1862. You will remember that he had told foreign nations, from the beginning of the war, that they must not encourage the South to persist in rebellion. England and France pretended to be neutral, and to respect what the President said; but for all that, the South received a great deal of help from them. One of the most annoying things these nations did was to allow vessels to be built, manned, and equipped in their ports for the service of the South. These ships were built by private individuals, and matters were so arranged that the Governments managed to shirk all blame.

At last things came to such a pass, and our commerce was destroyed to such an extent, that our minister to England, Mr. Adams, spoke to the British authorities about it. He told Lord Russell that a vessel was at that very moment on the stocks in a Liverpool ship-yard, which was certainly intended for the South. The English lord told Mr. Adams that he was never more mistaken in his life; that the ship he spoke of was to be sent to Sicily. Mr. Adams knew better, but he could not convince the earl that there was anything wrong about the ship; so she sailed. But the next time she was heard from she had arrived at Nassau, and a Confederate officer had taken command of her.

Probably all of you have heard of the famous Confederate cruiser, the "Alabama." Well, she was built in the ship-yard of a member of the English House of Commons, and allowed to sail, although our minister protested against it. She was called the "290" at first. She stole quietly out of port, went to the Azores, took on board her armament, and began her career as a Confederate cruiser, commanded by the notorious Captain Semmes. This was more than the President could stand; he sent word to England that she would be expected to pay for all the damage which the "Alabama" inflicted on our commerce.

CHAPTER XX.

Hooker succeeds Burnside. — Chancellorsville. — Meade succeeds Hooker. — Gettysburg. — Vicksburg. — Port Hudson. — Dedication of the Battlefield of Gettysburg. — The President's Thanksgiving Proclamation.

E have now come to the beginning of the year 1863. Let us return to the war for a little time, and see how it progressed during that period.

General Burnside still commanded the Army of the Potomac; but he was relieved on the 24th of January, and General Hooker was his successor. The season was too far advanced for active operations; so the army went into winter quarters and was inactive until the following April. On the twenty-seventh day of that month General Hooker began to make preparations to fight. Our army was north of the Rappahannock, the enemy south of it and in the vicinity of Fredericksburg.

Hooker wished to take Fredericksburg. He intended to attack the enemy in flank and rear. For

this purpose he sent out a strong cavalry force under General Stoneman, to cut the railroads in the rear of the enemy, to prevent their being reinforced from Richmond. He also sent three divisions of his army to Kelley's Ford, which is about twenty-five miles above Fredericksburg. The army crossed the river, and marched south as far as Chancellorsville. One division was left opposite Fredericksburg, under the command of General Sedgwick. The others crossed the river, and joined the main body at Chancellorsville.

On the second day of May General Jackson, who commanded the left wing of the Southern army, attacked our forces on the right, and for a while gained a decided advantage. Before the day was out, however, our men had regained their position. The next day the battle was continued, and the enemy got the best of it. In the mean time Sedgwick had crossed the river and gained the heights of Fredericksburg, but could not hold them, and was compelled to retreat.

During the night of May 5th Hooker recrossed the river, to his old position, having lost about eighteen thousand men. Both armies now remained quiet until the 9th of June, when it was discovered that Lee was leaving Fredericksburg for the Shenandoah valley.

On the 13th the Rebel General Ewell completely routed our advance post under General Milroy, and on the next day the Confederates crossed the Potomac into Maryland. It was feared that they intended to invade Pennsylvania. They had always declared they would yet push the war into the North, and it looked now as if they were intending to make good their threat. The whole North was very much excited. The President immediately called upon the States which were in most danger to send a hundred thousand men to serve for six months, and he asked New York for twenty thousand.

By the 27th the Confederate army had crossed the Potomac, and Lee had taken up his headquarters at Hagerstown. As soon as Hooker had discovered that the enemy were leaving Fredericksburg, he had broken camp and pursued them; so that on the day the Confederates reached Hagerstown, our army was at Frederick City. Our forces were thus between the Confederates and Baltimore and Washington, shielding those cities from attack, while they were also prepared to pursue the enemy into Pennsylvania. General Hooker was now relieved from his command, and General Meade was his successor.

The enemy was pushing for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Meade immediately started in pursuit. Generals Reynolds and Howard, commanding our

advance corps, came up with the enemy on the first day of July, near the town of Gettysburg. An attack was made; but the enemy so far outnumbered us that General Howard was obliged to fall back to Cemetery Hill and wait for reinforcements. During the night and the following day our forces concentrated around this point.

About three o'clock in the afternoon the Confederates made a most terrific attack upon us, which lasted until sunset, when they were forced to retire in confusion. In the evening they made a fresh attack, but were again driven back. The next morning they began it again, with no better success. The fight continued nearly all day, and resulted in the defeat of the enemy. The next morning it was thought they were about to attack again, but on the morning after it was discovered that they were in full retreat. The Sixth Corps and a body of cavalry were sent in pursuit.

After burying the dead and taking care of the wounded, General Meade, having learned the position of the Confederates, decided to pursue them by a flank movement; and very soon his whole army were *en route* for the Potomac. On the 12th of July they came up with the enemy, who had gained the high lands in front of Williamsport. Preparations were made to attack them; but they finally succeeded in

escaping to the Rapidan, and our army took up its old position on the Rappahannock.

This victory at Gettysburg was regarded as one of the most important of the war; but it was a very bloody one. At a fearful cost of life the enemy had been driven out of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the upper part of the Shenandoah valley. They did not find it so easy a matter to push the war into the North as they had anticipated. President Lincoln was so gratified at our success that on the morning of the 4th of July he sent the following despatch to the country: —

"The President announces to the country that news from the Army of the Potomac up to ten P. M. of the 3d is such as to cover that army with the highest honor, to promise a great success to the cause of the Union, and to claim the condolence of all for the many gallant fallen; and that for this he especially desires on this day, He, whose will, not ours, should ever be done, be everywhere remembered and reverenced with profoundest gratitude.

"A. LINCOLN."

We also had another glorious victory on this day, that the President did not yet know of. General Grant, who had been fighting on stubbornly ever since the war began, and who had for a long time been besieging Vicksburg, the only remaining stronghold of the enemy on the Mississippi, had the good fortune to

capture it, with all its garrison and war material, on that day. Fort Hudson was surrendered to General Banks four days later, and thus the *whole Mississippi River was ours.* This was a terrible blow to the Rebellion, for we had now cut its territory into two parts, and neither part was able to assist the other. These were the greatest military exploits of the year.

Some time during the autumn, after the battle of Gettysburg, the State of Pennsylvania purchased a part of the battlefield adjoining the cemetery for a burying-place for the fallen soldiers. It was dedicated on the 19th of November. The President and his Cabinet were present, and the Hon. Edward Everett made an eloquent and touching address. The President also spoke the following beautiful words: —

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.

The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

The success at Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg caused the most enthusiastic rejoicing. Public meetings were held all over the land, at which cheers were given and speeches made, and all loyal persons declared that the war must be vigorously prosecuted until the Rebellion should no more exist.

The President was serenaded, and in reply he made a graceful speech. These victories, with others which were gained in various parts of the country, encouraged the President so much that he appointed the 6th of August as a day of national thanksgiving. Our armies continuing to be successful during the autumn, the President appointed another thanksgiv-

ing for the last day of November. The following is the

PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States.

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to invite and provoke the aggressions of foreign States, peace has been preserved with all nations; order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. The needful diversion of wealth and strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence has not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship. The axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements; and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness

of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect a continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and voice, by the whole American people.

I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer to our beneficent Father, who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged; and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union.

THANKSGIVING DAY — HOME AGAIN!

CHAPTER XXI.

The French Emperor. — Congress. — The President's Message. — Arming of the Blacks. — Conscription Bill. — The Draft. — Riot in New York. — Vallandigham. — Rebel Rams.

WE will now return to the commencement of the year 1863, and see what else the President had to occupy his attention. You already know that besides military affairs, foreign nations caused him a great deal of anxiety.

Among other things he was very much afraid some of them would recognize the Southern Confederacy as a nation. The Army of the Potomac met with so many reverses in the year 1862, that there was a great deal of talk on the other side of the water about the necessity for somebody to interfere and put a stop to so much bloodshed.

Finally, toward the latter part of the year, the French Emperor invited England and Russia to unite with him in an attempt to mediate between the United States and the Confederacy. But England and Russia had the good sense to decline having any-

thing to do in the matter, and so the benevolent Emperor thought he would see what he could accomplish by himself.

Accordingly, on the 9th of January, 1863, he directed his secretary to send a despatch to Washington, in which the Emperor declared he was willing to do anything in his power which would help to end the war. He advised that instead of fighting any more, commissioners from both sides be appointed to talk the quarrel over, and see if they could not agree upon some terms on which it might be settled. The Emperor thought this would be an excellent way to dispose of all difficulties, and said that if we would adopt it he would not take the least credit to himself for having suggested it.

The President sent word back to the Emperor that we were very much obliged for his friendly intentions, but for the present we were perfectly well able to take care of ourselves; that we had not the most remote intention of ceasing to fight while the Rebellion continued; and that if the Rebels desired to send commissioners to talk with us, all they had to do was to lay down their arms, go home, and send their Senators and Representatives to Congress. This answer silenced the French Emperor and all other nations about interfering with us.

Congress met in December, 1862, and the Presi-

dent sent in a very interesting Message. You will recollect that it was only about three months before this that he issued his Emancipation Proclamation; and his heart is full of it, and also of his plan of immediately buying up all the slaves in the border States, for the purpose of ending the war. His argument in favor of compensated emancipation is logical, and you shall hear a portion of it. He says:

"A nation may be said to consist of its territory, its people, and its laws. The territory is the only part which is of certain durability. 'One generation passeth away and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever.' It is of the first importance to duly consider and estimate this ever-enduring part.

"That portion of the earth's surface which is owned and inhabited by the people of the United States is well adapted to the home of one national family; and it is not well adapted for two or more. Its vast extent and its variety of climate and productions are of advantage in this age for one people, whatever they might have been in former ages. Steam, telegraphs, and intelligence have brought these to be an advantageous combination for one united people.

"In the inaugural address I briefly pointed out the total inadequacy of disunion as a remedy for the differences between the people of the two sections. I did so in language which I cannot improve, and which, therefore, I beg to repeat.

"One section of our country believes slavery is right and

ought to be extended, while the other believes it is wrong and ought not to be extended. This is the only substantial dispute. The fugitive-slave clause of the Constitution and the law for the suppression of the foreign slave trade are each as well enforced, perhaps, as any law can ever be in a community where the moral sense of the people imperfectly supports the law itself. The great body of the people abide by the dry, legal obligation in both cases, and a few break over in each. This, I think, cannot be cured, and it would be worse in both cases after the separations of the sections than before. The foreign slave-trade, now imperfectly suppressed, would be ultimately revived without restriction in one section; while fugitive slaves, now only partially surrendered, would not be surrendered at all by the other.

"There is no line, straight or crooked, suitable for a national boundary upon which to divide. Trace through from east to west upon the line between the free and slave country, and we shall find a little more than one third of its length are rivers easy to be crossed, and populated, or soon to be populated, thickly upon both sides, while nearly all its remaining length are merely surveyor's lines, over which people may walk back and forth without any consciousness of their presence. No part of this line can be made any more difficult to pass by writing it down on paper or parchment as a national boundary. The fact of separation, if it comes, gives up on the part of the seceding section the fugitive-slave clause, along with all other constitutional obligations upon the section seceded from, while I should expect no treaty stipulation would ever be made to take its place.

"But there is another difficulty. The great interior region, bounded east by the Alleghanies, north by the British dominions, west by the Rocky Mountains, and south by the line along which the culture of corn and cotton meets, and which includes part of Virginia, part of Tennessee, all of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and the Territories of Dakota, Nebraska, and part of Colorado, already has above ten millions of people, and will have fifty millions within fifty years, if not prevented by any political folly or mistake.

"It contains more than one third of the country owned by the United States, — certainly more than one million of square miles. Once half as populous as Massachusetts already is, it would have more than seventy-five millions of people. A glance at the map shows that, territorially speaking, it is the great body of the republic. The other parts are but marginal borders to it, the magnificent region sloping west from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, being the deepest and also richest in undeveloped resources. In the production of provisions, grains, grasses, and all which proceed from them, this great interior region is naturally one of the most important in the world.

"Ascertain from the statistics the small proportion of the region which has as yet been brought into cultivation, and also the large and rapidly increasing amount of its products, and we shall be overwhelmed with the magnitude of the prospect presented. And yet this region has no sea-coast, touches no ocean anywhere. As part of one nation its people now find and may forever find their way to Europe by

New York, to South America and Africa by New Orleans, and to Asia by San Francisco. But separate our common country into two nations, as designed by the present Rebellion, and every man of this great interior region is thereby cut off from some one or more of these outlets, not perhaps by a physical barrier, but by embarrassing and onerous trade regulations.

"And this is true wherever a dividing or boundary line may be fixed. Place it between the now free and slave country, or place it south of Kentucky or north of Ohio, and still the truth remains that none south of it can trade to any port or place north of it, and none north of it can trade to any port or place south of it, except upon terms dictated by a government foreign to them. These outlets east, west, and south are indispensable to the well-being of the people inhabiting and to inhabit this vast interior region. Which of the three may be best is no proper question. All are better than either, and all of right belong to that people and to their successors forever. True to themselves, they will not ask where a line of separation shall be, but will vow rather that there shall be no such line. Nor are the marginal regions less interested in these communications to and through them to the great outside world. They, too, and each of them, must have access to this Egypt of the West, without paying toll at the crossing of any national boundary.

"Our strife springs not from our permanent part, not from the land we inhabit, not from our national homestead. There is no possible severing of this but would multiply and not mitigate evils among us. In all its adaptations and

aptitudes it demands union and abhors separation. In fact, it would erelong force reunion, however much of blood and treasure the separation might have cost.

"Our strife pertains to ourselves, to the passing generations of men, and it can without convulsion be hushed forever with the passing of one generation."

The President now proposes that amendments be made to the Constitution, which shall guarantee that every State which shall abolish slavery before the year 1900 shall be paid for every slave out of the public funds. But if any State, after being paid for her slaves, should again tolerate slavery, she must pay all the money back. Also, that all slaves who shall enjoy freedom by the chances of the war shall be forever free; but all loyal owners shall be paid for them, only no slave must be paid for twice. Also, that Congress may appropriate money for the colonization of free colored persons.

This is the substance of what the President wanted to have done; and now you shall hear his own reasons for desiring it: —

"Without slavery the Rebellion could never have existed, without slavery it could not continue. Among the friends of the Union there is a great diversity of sentiment and of policy in regard to slavery and the African race among us. Some would perpetuate slavery, some would abolish it suddenly and without compensation, some would abolish it

gradually and with compensation, some would remove the freed people from us, and some would retain them with us; and there are yet other minor diversities. Because of these diversities we waste much strength among ourselves. By mutual concession we should harmonize and act together. This would be compromise, but it would be compromise among the friends and not with the enemies of the Union.

"These articles are intended to embody a plan of such mutual concessions. If the plan shall be adopted, it is assumed that emancipation will follow in at least several of the States. In a certain sense the liberation of slaves is the destruction of property, — property acquired by descent or purchase, the same as any other property.

"It is no less true for having been often said, that the people of the South are not more responsible for the original introduction of this property than are the people of the North; and when it is remembered how unhesitatingly we all use cotton and sugar, and share the profits of dealing in them, it may not be quite safe to say that the South has been more responsible than the North for its continuance. If, then, for a common object this property is to be sacrificed, is it not just that it be done at a common charge?

"And if with less money, or money more easily paid, we can preserve the benefits of the Union by this means than we can by the war alone, is it not also economical to do it? Let us consider it, then. Let us ascertain the sum we have expended in the war since compensated emancipation was proposed last March, and consider whether, if that measure had been promptly accepted by even some of the slave

States, the same sum would not have done more to close the war than has been otherwise done. If so, the measure would save money and, in that view, would be a prudent and economical measure. Certainly, it is not so easy to pay something as it is to pay nothing; but it is easier to pay a large sum than it is to pay a larger one. And it is easier to pay any sum when we are able, than it is to pay it before we are able. The war requires large sums and requires them at once.

"The aggregate sum necessary for compensated emancipation of course would be large. But it would require no ready cash, nor the bonds even, any faster than the emancipation progresses. This might not, and probably would not, close before the end of the thirty-seven years. At that time we shall probably have a hundred millions of people to share the burden, instead of thirty-one millions as now.

"This plan is recommended as a means, not in exclusion of, but additional to, all others for restoring and preserving the national authority throughout the Union. The subject is presented exclusively in its economical aspect. The plan would, I am confident, secure peace more speedily, and maintain it more permanently, than can be done by force alone; while all it would cost, considering amounts and manner of payment and times of payment, would be easier paid than will be the additional cost of the war, if we solely rely upon force. It is much, very much, *that it would cost no blood at all.*

"I do not forget the gravity which should characterize a paper addressed to the Congress of the nation by the chief

magistrate of the nation. Nor do I forget that some of you are my seniors, nor that many of you have more experience than I in the conduct of public affairs. Yet I trust that in view of the great responsibility resting upon me, you will perceive no want of respect to yourselves in any undue earnestness I may seem to display.

"Is it doubted, then, that the plan I propose, if adopted, would shorten the war, and thus lessen its expenditure of money and of blood? Is it doubted that it would restore the national authority and national prosperity, and perpetuate both indefinitely? Is it doubted that we here — Congress and Executive — can secure its adoption? Will not the good people respond to a united and earnest appeal from us? Can we, can they, by any other means so certainly or so speedily assure these vital objects? We can succeed only by concert. It is not, 'Can any of us imagine better?' but, 'Can we all do better?'

"Object whatsoever is possible, still the question recurs, 'Can we do better?' The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew. We must disinthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration shall be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in honor or dishonor to the latest generation. We say that we are for the

Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free, honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last, best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not, cannot fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just, — a way which, if followed, *the world will forever applaud and God must forever bless.*

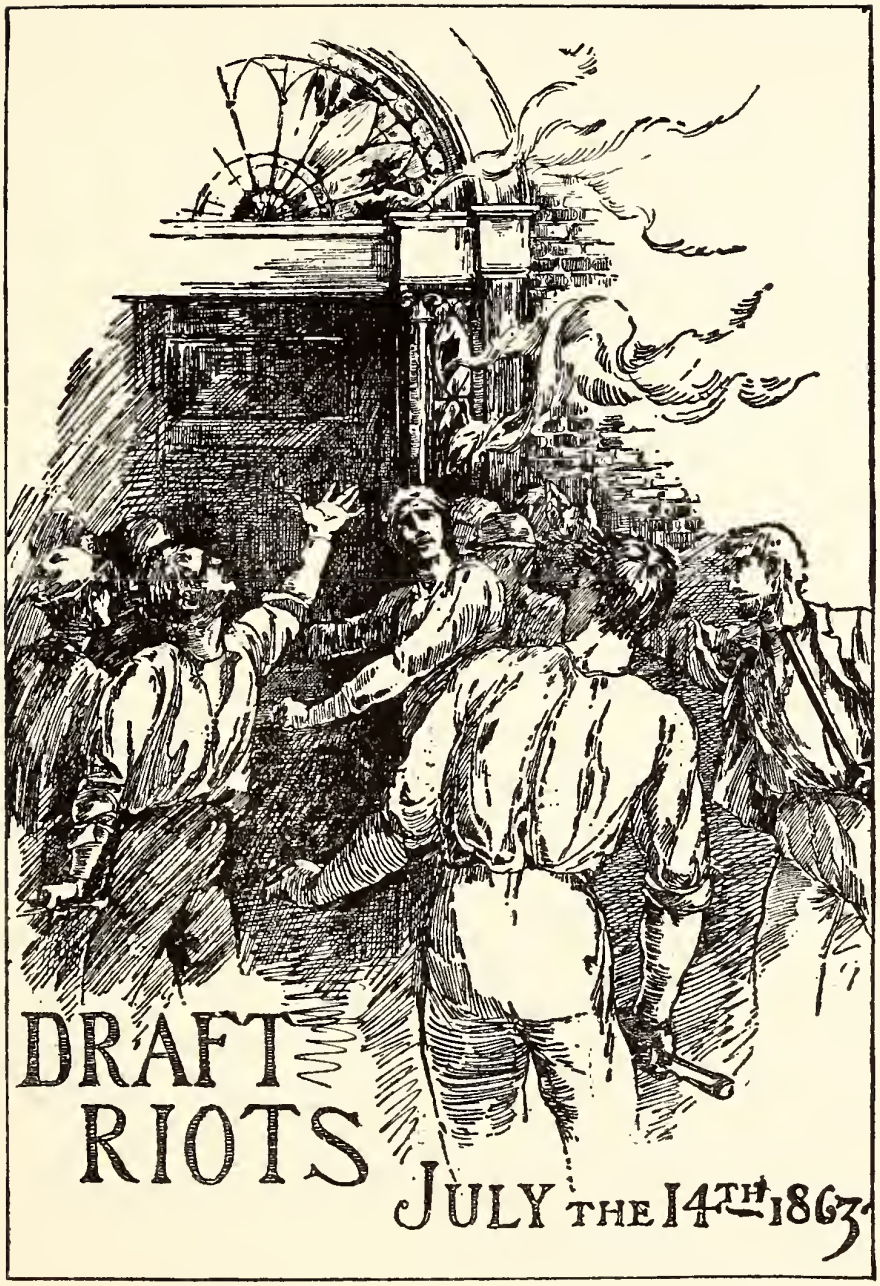
"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

During this session of Congress there was a great deal of discussion whether negroes should be armed and employed as soldiers. Many of the Congressmen were very much opposed to it; but at length it was decided to try the experiment, and before the end of the year there were a hundred thousand black men in the service of the United States. This Congress passed another very important bill for the prosecution of the war, called the Conscription Bill. This bill gave the President power to create a national army by enrolling and drafting the militia of the whole country. Every State was required to raise its quota of men according to its population. When this great army was raised, it was to be entirely at the control of the President.

By this act all able-bodied men who were citizens,

or who had declared their intention of becoming citizens of the United States, between the ages of twenty and forty-five years, were liable to be drafted as soldiers. Those who chose to pay three hundred dollars or furnish a substitute could remain at home. There were also some other exemptions, such as the only son of a widow, or the only son of aged and infirm parents, who were dependent on their son for support.

The draft was ordered to take place in July, and it was publicly proclaimed how many men each State would be required to furnish. As a general thing the loyal people approved of the draft, and thought it was the best and fairest way to raise men to carry on the war. Volunteering was not nearly so brisk as when the contest commenced, and it was feared that men enough could not be raised in that way who would remain till the end of the war. Some of the President's enemies, however, made a great noise about the draft, and said it was a very despotic measure, because it favored the rich and oppressed the poor. "Any rich man," said they, "can pay his three hundred dollars and stay at home; but if a poor man be drafted, he must go whether he wants to or not." But these grumblers did not do much mischief, and the draft went quietly on in all places but New York and Chicago. At New York there was a shameful riot and mob.


DRAFT
RIOTS
JULY THE 14TH 1863

The names of all the men liable to be drafted were written down and placed in a wheel. A man appointed to draw the names was blindfolded, and every precaution was taken to prevent cheating. The wheel was turned, and as many names as were required were drawn from the whole number. It was like a lottery; nobody knew whether he should be drafted or not till his name was called. But nearly everybody took the matter very good-naturedly, and most of those who were drafted went; but some paid the three hundred dollars and stayed at home.

In New York, however, as I told you, things did not go on very smoothly. The draft began there on the 11th of July, which was Saturday. No disturbance occurred on that day; but on Sunday some bad men put their heads together to see if they could break up the draft, which was no sooner commenced on Monday morning than a gang of these fellows burst into one of the buildings where the business was going on, broke the wheel in pieces, tore up the lists of names, and set the office on fire. The excitement quickly spread all over the city. The police did their best to restrain it, but they were almost powerless against such an angry mob as were now filling the streets. The city authorities called out the militia, but unfortunately there were but very few soldiers available. Nearly all had gone to Pennsyl-

vania to repel Lee's invasion; for you will remember this was only a few days after the battle of Gettysburg.

The mob knew the city was in a crippled condition, and took advantage of it, and for a time got the upper hand. Indeed, for four whole days they seemed to have everything their own way. They burned building after building, among others an orphan asylum for colored children. Negroes were hanged, beaten to death, and mutilated in various ways. Bands of ruffians paraded the streets, demanding money and ordering places of business to be closed, and all sorts of outrages were committed, till no man felt that either his life or his money was safe. The police and the few remaining soldiers did their duty most manfully, and after a time the regiments began to return from Pennsylvania to help them; so that peace and order were at length restored.

Of course during the riot the draft could not proceed. It was resumed, however, in a few weeks; and as the mob knew that the city was now in a position to defend itself, no more opposition was made. Some little trouble occurred at Chicago, but nothing of consequence; and in all other parts of the country the draft proceeded quietly and pleasantly.

You will remember, children, that one of the President's vexatious trials was having to contend with

Rebel sympathizers. One of the most prominent of these men was the Hon. C. L. Vallandigham, a member of Congress from Ohio. This man had been very troublesome in Congress, opposing all measures that were adopted for the prosecution of the war. Upon his return home he was bolder than ever, and went about denouncing the Government.

He made a speech one day, in which he declared that the war was not carried on to restore the Union, but to crush out liberty and establish despotism. He said its object was to enslave the whites and free the blacks; that the Government could have had peace long ago, if it had desired it; that it ought to have accepted the mediation of France; and that it had deliberately refused propositions by which the South might have been brought back into the Union. Mr. Vallandigham also denounced an order of General Burnside, who commanded the department in which this traitor lived, and said he intended to disobey this order himself. He called upon all who heard him to disobey it also and prevent it from being executed.

General Burnside, hearing of these things, ordered Mr. Vallandigham to be arrested and tried before a court-martial at Cincinnati. Upon this Vallandigham appealed to the writ of habeas corpus; but Judge Stewart refused to grant the writ, because he said General Burnside had only done what was necessary

for the public safety. Judge Stewart said: "Those who live under the protection and enjoy the blessings of our benignant Government must learn that they cannot stab its vitals with impunity." The court-martial found Vallandigham guilty, and sentenced him to imprisonment in some United States fortress. General Burnside said he should be sent to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

The President, who always wished to be as merciful as possible to everybody, mitigated this sentence by telling Vallandigham that instead of being imprisoned he might go within the Confederate lines, but must not return within the Union lines until the war was ended. But notwithstanding the President's kindness, a great noise was made by his enemies about the arrest and sentence of Mr. Vallandigham. Meetings were held denouncing the President's course, calling him a tyrant, and demanding the return of Mr. Vallandigham.

In reply to this, the President said it was well known that armed combinations had been formed in many places to resist the draft and to resist the arrest of deserters from the army; and he solemnly believed Mr. Vallandigham had caused this hindrance to the military more than any other one person. "And," said the President, "must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a

hair of a wily agitator, who induces him to desert? I think to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional but, withal, a great mercy.

"Nor am I able," he continues, "to appreciate the danger apprehended by the meeting, that the American people will, by means of military arrests during the Rebellion, lose the right of public discussion, the liberty of speech and the press, the law of evidence, trial by jury and habeas corpus, throughout the indefinite, peaceful future which, I trust, lies before them, any more than I am able to believe that a man could contract so strong an appetite for emetics, during temporary illness, as to persist in feeding upon them during the remainder of his healthful life."

We shall mention only one more item of the year 1863.

During the summer of this year it was discovered that some very formidable rams were being built in England, which were evidently intended for the Rebels. Our minister, Mr. Adams, had spared no pains to get evidence in regard to these iron-clads, and at length told Earl Russell that if they were permitted to sail as other ships had been, the United States would be obliged to conclude that it meant *war*. At first England declined to do anything about the rams; but finally changed her mind, and gave orders that they should not leave Liverpool.

CHAPTER XXII.

Congress. — Amnesty Proclamation. — General Grant. — Presidential Campaign. — Lincoln re-elected. — His Reception of the News.

E have now arrived at the dawn of the year 1864. The military events of that year are so closely connected with those of the following year that they cannot well be told separately. We will therefore hear further about the doings of Congress and the plans of the President, before we return to the story of the war.

Congress met at the usual time, in the last month of 1863 ; and the President sent in his annual Message, in which he offered another inducement to the Rebels to lay down their arms and return to their allegiance to the United States. This is called the Proclama-

tion of Amnesty (or Pardon), and you shall have the President's own words: —

"I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do proclaim, declare, and make known to all persons who have directly or by implication participated in the existing Rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, that a full pardon is hereby granted to them and each of them, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and in property cases where rights of third parties shall have intervened, and upon the condition that every such person shall take and subscribe an oath and thenceforward keep and maintain said oath inviolate, — an oath which shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

"'I, ———, do solemnly swear, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all acts of Congress passed during the existing Rebellion with reference to slaves so long and so far as not repealed, modified, or held void by Congress or the decision of the Supreme Court; and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all proclamations of the President made during the existing Rebellion having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or declared void by decision of the Supreme Court. So help me God.'

"The persons excepted from the foregoing provisions are:

All who are or shall have been civil or diplomatic officers or agents of the so-called Confederate Government; all who have left judicial stations under the United States to aid the Rebellion; all who are or shall have been military or naval officers of the so-called Confederate Government, above the rank of colonel in the army, or of lieutenant in the navy; all who left seats in the United States Congress to aid the Rebellion; all who resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, and afterward aided the Rebellion; and all who have engaged in any way in treating colored persons or white persons in charge of such otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war, and which persons may have been found in the United States service as soldiers, seamen, or in any other capacity.

"And I do further proclaim, declare, and make known that whenever, in any of the States of Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina a number of persons, not less than one tenth in number of the votes cast in such States at the Presidential election of the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, each having taken the oath aforesaid and not having since violated it, and being a qualified voter by the election law of the State, existing immediately before the so-called act of secession and excluding all others, shall re-establish a State government which shall be Republican and in no wise contravening said oath, — such shall be recognized as the true government of the State; and the State shall receive thereunder the benefits of the constitutional provision which declares that 'The United States

shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion and, on application to the Legislature or the Executive when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence.' "

Thus, you see that although the enemies of the good President accused him of prolonging the war for his own purposes, — and some of them went so far as to declare that he might have had peace long before if he had desired it, — this was so far from being true that he was constantly planning every means he could think of to induce the Confederates to cease fighting before they were conquered and compelled to surrender.

I have told you in these pages of the various ways in which he tried to show the Southern people that they could gain nothing by the war, but in the end must lose everything, slaves and all. Now, as a last resort, he told them that if they would only take this oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States and keep it, he would pardon them. In other words, he would *forget* that they had ever been Rebels, — for *amnesty* comes from a Greek word which means *to forget.*

The President therefore said, in effect, that he would never remember any more that they had not been all the time the best of citizens, if they would

take the oath and go home and keep it; and when one tenth of all the legal voters in any State then in rebellion had done this, *they* should constitute the real State, and could make a new State Government and be admitted to their old privileges in the Union. This was the President's plan of reconstruction.

During this winter Congress talked a great deal about the merits of General Grant, and it seemed to be the prevailing opinion, not only in Congress but all over the country, that he was the greatest military man we had. In the latter part of the year 1863, after the capture of Vicksburg, he had performed some other very brilliant exploits in the West. The President was so pleased with the General that he wrote him the following letter: —

MAJOR-GENERAL GRANT:

Understanding that your lodgement at Chattanooga and Knoxville is now secure, I wish to tender you and all under your command my more than thanks, my profoundest gratitude, for the skill, courage, and perseverance with which you and they, over so great difficulties, have effected that important object. God bless you all.

A. LINCOLN.

About this time Congress sent a vote of thanks to General Grant and his officers for their gallant deeds, and ordered a gold medal to be made and presented to the General in the name of the people of the

United States. This medal was very beautiful, and a mark of great honor; but still greater honors were in reserve for the brave General who had done so much for us.

During the winter Congress resolved to restore the grade of Lieutenant-General in the army. This title had never been conferred upon any one as an actual rank in time of war, except upon General Washington. General Scott had borne the title by brevet; that is, he had been called Lieutenant-General as an act of courtesy, but it was not his real rank. It was now proposed to bestow it upon General Grant. His commission bore the date of March 2, 1864; and a few days later the General received it from the hands of the President himself.

The time was now approaching for a new Presidential campaign. This is always a period of great excitement even in the calmest times; and that it must now necessarily happen in the midst of a great civil war, when the people were divided into all sorts of factions, was looked upon by those who really loved their country as a great misfortune. But come it must. There was no help for it. By the terms of the Constitution nobody could be President more than four years at a time, unless re-elected.

Mr. Lincoln was now in the fourth year of his administration, and in the month of November some-

body must be chosen to fill his place. You already know how a Presidential campaign is conducted, and how the President is chosen. The great difficulty among all loyal persons at this time was to decide who should be the candidate. Men who truly desired to save the country from destruction thought this was no time to choose any person because he represented a particular party, but rather because he would be the best man to carry the good old ship of the Union safely through the terrific storm which still threatened to dash her in pieces against the rocks.

Who was wise enough to be the pilot? — that was the question. The country was in a fearful condition. Nobody could venture to predict when the war would end. The South seemed just as determined as ever, and for aught we could see about as strong. The people were heavily taxed, and the big national debt was daily growing bigger, because it cost so much to carry on such a tremendous war. England kept telling us that we were crazy, that we could never pay such a debt, and that the nation would soon be bankrupt. Some bad speculators had raised gold to an unheard-of price. Thousands of the best and bravest men in the land had fallen in battle, and the Government was calling for thousands more. Who was wise enough to stand at the helm and guide the ship through this fearful storm?

The great body of the people said: "Abraham Lincoln shall be our pilot and our captain." The boys in blue said: "We have all re-enlisted to see this war through; and 'Old Abe' must re-enlist too. 'Old Abe' must stay in the White House until every person in rebellion lays down his arms and agrees to obey the laws of his country." So Mr. Lincoln was re-elected by an overwhelming majority.

When the President was told that he was nominated for re-election, he said, with childlike simplicity, that he was very grateful that the people did not deem him unworthy of his position. When he was told that he was re-elected by a very large majority, he said: —

"I am thankful to God for this approval of the people. But while deeply grateful for this mark of their confidence in me, if I know my own heart, my gratitude is free from any taint of personal triumph. It is no pleasure to me to triumph over any one; but I give thanks to the Almighty for this evidence of the people's resolution to stand by free government and the rights of humanity."

His opponent was General McClellan, who had been nominated by a portion of the Democratic party; but he received the electoral votes of only three States, as a great many Democrats voted for Mr. Lincoln.

Again the President says: —

"So long as I have been here I have not willingly planted a thorn in any man's bosom. While I am duly sensible to the high compliment of a re-election, and duly grateful, as I trust, to Almighty God for having directed my countrymen to a right conclusion, as I think, for their good, it adds nothing to my satisfaction that any other man may be disappointed by the result. . . . May I ask those who have not differed with me to join with me in this same spirit toward those who have? . . . And now let me close by asking three hearty cheers for our brave soldiers and seamen and their gallant commanders."

This last remark was addressed to some clubs that had come to serenade the President. Again, the President said in his funny way, — for he was always ready with a humorous or witty remark, — that he did not permit himself to conclude that he was the best man in the country; but he was reminded of the story of an old Dutch farmer, who said it was not best to swap horses when crossing a stream.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Congress. — The President's Message. — A Constitutional Amendment. — The Peace Conference. — The Second Inauguration of Lincoln.

WE have now come to the Congressional session of 1864–1865. The President recommended in his Message that Congress should pass an act which the Senate had passed at the previous session, but which failed to pass the House, submitting to the States an amendment to the Constitution which should prohibit slavery in the United States. He closes the Message in these words: —

"I repeat the declaration made a year ago, that while I remain in my present position I shall not attempt to retract or modify the Emancipation Proclamation. Nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. If the people should, by whatever mode or means, make it an executive duty to re-enslave such persons, another, and not I, must be their instrument to perform it.

"In stating a single condition of peace, I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it."

On the last day of January the Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery all over the United States passed the House. The vote was announced amid the greatest excitement and most uproarious applause. I believe some of the Congressmen kissed each other, they were so glad. Cannons roared, bells rang, and banners waved all over the land as soon as the telegraph told us the joyful news. A great crowd assembled around the President's mansion to congratulate him.

To them he said: "This amendment is a king's cure for all evils. It winds the whole thing up. It is the fitting, if not indispensable, adjunct in the consummation of the great game we are playing."

This amendment had passed both Houses of Congress, and needed now to be adopted by three fourths of the States before it could become part and parcel of the Constitution. Several of the States adopted it immediately, while others hesitated.

About this time there was a great deal of excitement among the people, caused by rumors that the President was trying to negotiate a peace with Jefferson Davis. The foundation for the story was this: Mr. Francis P. Blair, a gentleman of great experience

in political life, asked Mr. Lincoln to give him a pass through our lines to Richmond and back. The President complied with this request. When Mr. Blair reached Richmond, he went to see Jefferson Davis and other prominent Confederates.

Upon his return to Washington he carried a written statement from Mr. Davis, that he was willing to send a commission to the United States, or receive one from them, for the purpose of making negotiations for the restoration of peace between the two countries. Mr. Blair showed this statement to President Lincoln, who in return wrote a statement that he was ready, and always had been, to receive any agent that Mr. Davis might choose to send informally for the purpose of securing peace to the people of *our common country*. Mr. Blair went back to Richmond, and showed this statement of Mr. Lincoln's to Jefferson Davis.

Mr. Davis saw that Mr. Lincoln had no idea of admitting that there were two countries or two governments within the limits of the United States, and that no person whom he might choose to send to Mr. Lincoln to talk about peace would be received in any official capacity, but only as a private individual. So the matter ended right there.

Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter, and J. A. Campbell were permitted by the President to pass

within our lines to Fortress Monroe, and go on board a steamer anchored in Hampton Roads. On the 3d of February Mr. Seward and the President held a conference of several hours' duration with these gentlemen, but nothing came of it. The President's conditions of peace were, that the national authority must be recognized in all the States, that all the Confederate armies must immediately disband, and that slavery must be abolished.

The commissioners went back and reported to Mr. Davis, who said he would scorn to accept such propositions, and was more determined than ever to fight it out. The President had no reason to suppose that any good could result from this conference when he consented to it. But he allowed it to take place, in order to convince a certain class of people in the country of their error in insisting that the President might have peace if he would propose proper terms to the South. But Jefferson Davis had always said he would not accept any terms but the independence of the Confederate States; and to satisfy everybody that this was true, the President decided to see the so-called commissioners himself.

And now the 4th of March drew on, the time for Mr. Lincoln's second inauguration. Much had happened during the last four years. You will remember that at the time of his first inauguration he was

guarded by a band of soldiers, lest his life should be taken before he was sworn into office. He was then an unknown man. His best friends and warmest supporters scarcely dared to hope that he would be equal to the terrible emergency which all saw was at hand; and his enemies not only hated him bitterly but ridiculed him as being ignorant and obscure, and wholly unfit for any public position.

But four years of the most difficult administration of government that any man in the world ever experienced had made every one acquainted with the pure, noble-hearted, wise, honest, rare, Christian patriot, whom God in his great mercy had given us for a leader in those perilous times. Now he stood before the assembled multitude as the chosen ruler of thirty millions of people, looked up to and trusted in as no man since Washington had ever been. Indeed, at that moment I think we can say without exaggeration that Abraham Lincoln possessed more power, and certainly was better loved, than any other one man on the face of the earth. What a lesson his public life teaches! His greatness came from his thorough goodness.

His second inaugural address has been pronounced the most perfect state paper that ever was written; you shall have opportunity, therefore, to read the whole of it. It is as follows: —

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN, — At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued seemed very fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is new could be presented.

The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this, four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it; all sought to avoid it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it with war, — seeking to dissolve the Union and divide the effects by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish, and the war came. One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate,

and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union by war, while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it.

Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease, or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph and a result less fundamental and astounding.

Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayer of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has his own purposes.

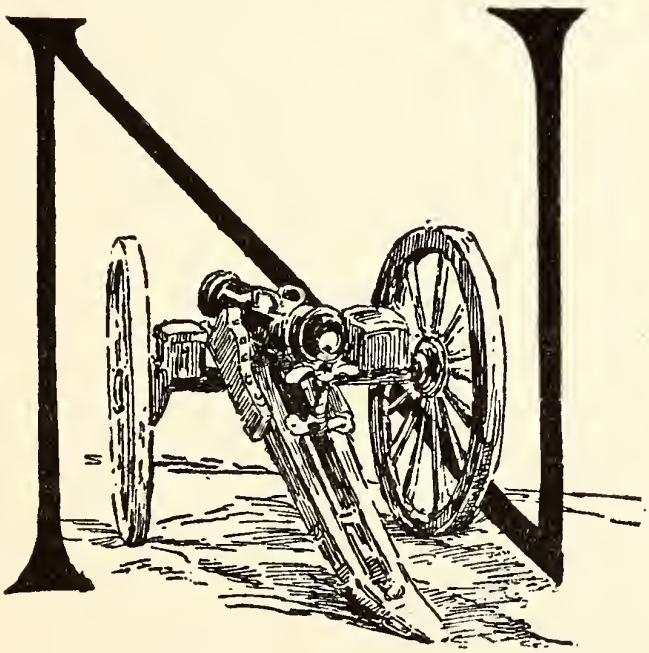
"Woe unto the world because of offences, for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh." If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of these offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which having continued through his appointed time he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the *woe* due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern there any departure from those Divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two

hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that "the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, — to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

CHAPTER XXIV.

General Grant.— General Sherman.— Grant's Campaign against Richmond.— General Sheridan. — Sherman's Grand March. — Savannah. — Fort Fisher. — Petersburg and Richmond Evacuated. — President Lincoln enters Richmond.— Surrender of Lee. — Celebrations. — The President's Last Speech.



NOW we will return, in our story of the war, to the beginning of the year 1864. There had been some very brilliant fighting in the West in the latter part of 1863, as I have already told you; and its results are very finely and comprehensively stated in Grant's congratulatory order to his army. General Grant said to his soldiers: —

"In a short time you have recovered from the enemy the control of the Tennessee River from Bridgeport to Knoxville;

you dislodged him from his great stronghold upon Lookout Mountain, drove him from Chattanooga valley, wrested from his determined grasp the possession of Missionary Ridge, repelled, with heavy loss to him, his repeated assaults from Knoxville, forcing him to raise the siege there, driving him at all points, utterly routed and discomfited, beyond the limits of the State."

It was immediately after these splendid successes that Grant received his gold medal.

As the year 1864 dawned upon us, the public attention was especially directed to the movements of the two great armies, that of the Potomac and that of the West. The winter was spent principally in making preparations for a new campaign. The Army of the Potomac, under the command of General Meade, lay around Culpepper Court-House, anxious to make another demonstration upon Richmond. The Army of the West was making preparations for its grand Southern campaign.

On the 12th of March the President placed Grant, who was now Lieutenant-General, in command of all the armies of the United States. Gen. W. T. Sherman was appointed to succeed Grant in command of the military division of the Mississippi.

The Lieutenant-General determined to take command in person of the armies which were to assail Richmond. Previous to doing this, he arranged with

General Sherman a plan for the spring and summer campaign. Sherman was to move, as nearly as possible, at the same time as Grant, that no reinforcements might go from one Confederate army to the other. Grant was to move upon Richmond, Sherman upon Atlanta. Great preparations were necessary for these gigantic undertakings, but both generals were ready to commence operations about the 1st of May.

General Grant was now prepared to take the field in person against his skilled opponent, General Lee. Grant had a magnificent force at his disposal, consisting in fact of three armies, — the Army of the Potomac, under Meade; of the James, under Butler; and of the Shenandoah, under Sigel. These three armies were stationed at different points, and were to move in different directions; but they had one common object in view, — the capture of Richmond. The Army of the Potomac had the honor of beginning the contest.

On the night of the 3d of May it had orders to break camp, and the next day it commenced its forward march, crossing the Rapidan without opposition. This movement compelled Lee to leave his intrenchments, and come out and give battle, which was the very thing Grant intended he should do. General Grant knew that the true way to take Richmond and crush the Rebellion was to destroy Lee's

army, and he intended to continue to fight the enemy until he had accomplished his object.

Almost as soon as the Army of the Potomac had crossed the Rapidan, they plunged into what is known as "The Wilderness," a very difficult tract of country for a battlefield, being covered with scrub pines and tangled underbrush, with only a few bad roads, making it almost impossible to use artillery or cavalry. The Southerners had the advantage of knowing every inch of the country, and were able to conceal their movements.

On Thursday the terrible battles of the Wilderness commenced. The fighting continued till late into the night without any decided advantage on either side. At four o'clock the next morning Lee began the contest again. The fighting was terribly severe this day, and toward evening Lee succeeded in flanking Grant; but Grant in his turn flanked Lee, and at daylight Saturday morning it was discovered that Lee was falling back. Grant had now got out of the Wilderness into the open country, where he could make use of his artillery. He pursued Lee, and came up with him at Spottsylvania Court House, where Lee had taken up a very strong position.

During Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the fighting was terrific, without any decided result on either side. But at half-past four on Thurs-

day morning Hancock made a tremendous bayonet charge, and the advantage was on our side. Hancock won the day, capturing thirty guns and four thousand prisoners. We gained some other successes this day, though the Confederates fought with almost superhuman courage. They kept up the struggle till *three o'clock Friday morning*, trying to retake the positions which Hancock had gained. On Friday Lee re-formed his lines; but Grant kept up with him.

Both armies now rested for a few days, and were largely reinforced. On the 18th Hancock began again, and gained two lines of the enemy's intrenchments. Grant occupied the next three days in making one of his flank movements, which was successful.

Lee in the mean time had taken up a strong position between the North and South Anna Rivers. Grant considered Lee's position too strong for direct attack; so he made another flank movement. He recrossed the North Anna, burned up the bridge of the Virginia Central Railroad, crossed the Pamunkey River, and on the last day of May was within fifteen miles of Richmond with all his army. But Lee had been reinforced, and was ready for him.

On the 3d of June the battle of Cold Harbor was fought, and our troops were successful. General Grant now determined to cross the James River and attack Richmond from that side.

All this time Butler and Sigel had not been idle. Butler had occupied and fortified Bermuda Hundred, cut the railroad below Petersburg, attacked both that city and Fort Darling, and although he had not been able to capture either, had nevertheless held his own position, and was in condition to render valuable assistance to the Army of the Potomac as it approached him.

Sigel had been unfortunate in his part of the programme, and was relieved of his command and succeeded by General Hunter, who for a time met with better success. He defeated the enemy at Staunton, driving him to Waynesboro, and capturing guns and prisoners. Sheridan, meantime, was on one of his famous raids, riding around Lee's lines, tearing up railroads, demolishing depots and supply-trains, and setting Union prisoners at liberty.

As soon as Grant had crossed the James, he decided to attack Petersburg; but his movements were hindered through some misunderstanding on the part of the cavalry. However, he kept at work, and by the 22d of June Petersburg was partially invested. On that day our troops gained possession of the Petersburg and Danville Railroad.

Grant was now for a time apparently quiet; but he was in reality preparing a new surprise for the Rebels: *he was mining their fortifications.* This

mine was charged with eight tons of powder, and by Grant's order was exploded on the 30th of July, and an assault upon Petersburg commenced; but through some disagreement among the officers this movement proved a failure. But Grant, instead of being discouraged, continued operations with more energy than ever. In August a battle was fought on the north side of the James, by which we captured some heavy guns and several hundred prisoners. In the latter part of the month Grant took possession of a portion of the Weldon Railroad.

The Lieutenant-General was not satisfied with the movements in the Shenandoah valley, and in this same month he organized a new department, calling it the Department of the Shenandoah, and appointed Sheridan to command it. Sheridan achieved some splendid successes during the autumn. On the 19th of September occurred the battle of Opequan Creek, in which Sheridan drove the Confederate General Early through Winchester, and took many prisoners, capturing also a large number of guns. Three days later Sheridan gained another victory at Fisher's Hill, completely routing the enemy, capturing artillery, horses, and ammunition. The enemy lost about ten thousand men in these two engagements. These victories caused great rejoicing throughout the North; and praises of gallant Phil Sheridan were on every tongue.

On the 19th of October, while Sheridan was absent, Early took the opportunity to attack our army, and came near defeating it. But at a critical moment, when our forces were retreating, Sheridan came riding up, his horse covered with foam. "Face the other way, boys!" he shouted. "We are going back to our camp; we are going to lick them out of their boots!" The effect was magical. The men faced about and went to the front, cheering and shouting. Our lines were quickly re-formed, and the enemy was utterly routed, and Early was once more sent "whirling through the valley." This was regarded as one of the most brilliant exploits of the war, turning what bid fair to be a terrible defeat into a splendid victory.

All this time, Sherman had been nobly fulfilling the task assigned to him. After much severe fighting, he took possession of Atlanta on the second day of September. Sherman destroyed Atlanta, and leaving General Thomas to take care of the Rebel General Hood, cut loose from his base of supplies and marched with his grand army three hundred miles through the heart of the enemy's country, and on the 22d of December captured the city of Savannah, having laid waste the entire region through which he passed.

During the autumn General Grant planned an attack upon Wilmington, which was a very important

Confederate stronghold, as it was the port through which they received most of their supplies from Europe, by means of vessels which succeeded in running the blockade.

This port was guarded by Fort Fisher, one of the strongest fortifications in the world. On the 13th of December an expedition under the command of General Butler, accompanied by a naval force under Admiral Porter, sailed from Hampton Roads, for the purpose of assaulting Fort Fisher. But it proved a failure, and the troops returned to City Point.

General Grant, however, was not disposed to give up his plan, and soon after despatched another expedition under the command of General Terry, who with the aid of Admiral Porter captured Fort Fisher on the 15th of January, thus closing the harbor of Wilmington to the Confederates. They could receive no more supplies from Europe through that port; and as most of their other ports were now closed, matters began to look very serious for them.

During the month of December General Thomas was also doing splendid execution in the West: he completely crushed Hood's army, in a three days' fight, in front of Nashville. Thus, you see, light at last was breaking through the dark clouds, the storm was subsiding, and it looked now as if the good old ship of the Union might ride out the gale.

The year 1865 dawned most hopefully. Sherman had made the President a *Christmas gift* of the city of Savannah, together with twenty-five thousand bales of cotton and a great quantity of big guns and ammunition. Hood's army had been crushed, and by the middle of January Fort Fisher was ours. General Terry followed up his successes, capturing one fort after another, on the Cape Fear River, till, on the 22d of February, Wilmington was evacuated without a struggle, and our troops celebrated Washington's Birthday by marching in and taking possession of the city. Sherman was also doing his part as effectively as ever. He left Savannah, and pushing northward through almost impassable swamps entered the State of South Carolina and captured Columbia, the capital of the State, without a battle, on the 17th of February. As a consequence of Sherman's approach, Charleston was abandoned, and the stars and stripes once more floated over the rebellious city.

In the mean time Grant kept steadily at work. On the 6th of February he ordered a movement to Hatcher's Run, in order to connect his lines more closely with the Weldon Railroad. After a terrible fight, in which the enemy at first got the advantage, our troops gained an advance of four miles. On the 25th of March the enemy attacked Fort Stedman and captured the garrison; but our soldiers retook

the fort after a severe struggle. The President was on a visit to the Army of the Potomac, and arrived on the field just in time to see the retreat of the enemy. By the 19th of March General Sherman had reached Goldsborough, North Carolina, and joined his forces with those of General Terry.

Upon his arrival at Goldsborough, Sherman made a visit to City Point, to meet the President and General Grant, and to plan with them the movement which was destined to end the war. On the 30th of March Grant was ready for his last, grand move.

Sheridan had the honor of beginning the final contest. He made a wide detour, and pretended to threaten Burkesville; and when he had directed Lee's attention to that quarter, he wheeled suddenly around at Dinwiddie Court House, and striking the South-side Railroad within a few miles of Petersburg, moved upon that city, tearing up the road as he marched, and attacked Lee's right flank. Meantime the Army of the Potomac hammered away at Lee's front, and the Army of the James attacked the left flank.

After four days' hard-fought battles, Sheridan succeeded in flanking Lee, and in taking possession of the South-side Railroad and capturing about six thousand prisoners. The Army of the Potomac had gained possession of the enemy's lines in front, and Petersburg was at our mercy. On the 2d of April

General Lee saw that the time had come when Petersburg and Richmond must be abandoned.

It was Sunday, and Jefferson Davis was at church in Richmond, when a despatch was handed to him from General Lee, saying that he could no longer hold the city. During that night both cities were evacuated. At half-past eight the next morning the President, who was at City Point, telegraphed these facts to Secretary Stanton. General Weitzel and his corps of colored troops were the first to enter Richmond, where they arrived about the same time that the President sent the despatch. Richmond was all in a blaze. The enemy did not mean that we should have their capital; they meant to burn it up: but Weitzel was too quick for them, and soon put out the fire.

The next day the President himself went to Richmond. He entered the city in his own modest way, without any guard, and walked, like any private citizen, up to the house of Jefferson Davis, where Weitzel had taken up his headquarters. Before he reached the house the news spread rapidly among the negroes that the President had come. He was immediately surrounded on all sides by the dusky throng. They were very impatient to see their great deliverer. They shouted, clapped their hands, danced and jumped, and made every sort of wild demonstration of joy. One woman, with her hands clasped and the

tears running down her cheeks, shouted, "I thank you, dear Jesus, that I behold President Linkum." Others shouted, "Bress de Lawd! Bress de Lawd!"

It was a long walk, and the President stopped to rest. An old negro took off his hat and bowed to the President, and with tears rolling down his dusky cheeks said: "May the good Lord bless you, President Linkum." The President took off his own hat and *returned the bow.* This was the way President Lincoln entered Richmond.

"BRESS DE LAWD!"

Meantime Grant was pursuing Lee. Lee did his utmost to escape; but finding it impossible, surrendered his whole army to the Lieutenant-General on the 9th of April, upon Grant's own terms.

This was the death-blow to the Southern Confederacy; *it never breathed again.*

As this glorious news flashed over the wires from city to city, no pen can describe the excitement and rejoicing throughout the land. There had been no excitement equal to it, since the day Sumter was fired upon. Nobody thought of work or of business.

Even the speculators forgot their *gold!* All persons who could beg, borrow, or buy an American flag, draped their buildings. Houses were illuminated, bells rung, and cannons fired, from one end of the country to the other. Prayers were said in all the business marts. Men who had perhaps never prayed before, now thanked God for this glorious victory. Cheers for Old Abe, as the President was fondly called, Unconditional Surrender Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, rent the air. The dear President did indeed now behold the fruit of all his labors. He who had trusted so implicitly in his Heavenly Father, was not disappointed. He was now paid for all his sleepless nights and careworn days.

The President returned to Washington on the day of Lee's surrender. The next evening there was a great celebration. The President's mansion and all the public buildings were brilliantly illuminated and decorated with bunting, and bonfires blazed all over the city. An immense throng assembled at the White House, to hear what the President had to say to them upon so memorable an occasion. Little did they think it was the last time they should listen to that beloved voice! But alas! so God willed. The President spoke thus: —

"FELLOW-CITIZENS, — We meet this evening, not in sorrow, but in gladness of heart. The evacuation of Petersburg

and Richmond, and the surrender of the principal insurgent army give hope of a righteous and speedy peace, whose joyous expression cannot be restrained. In the midst of this, however, He from whom all blessings flow, must not be forgotten.

"A call for a national thanksgiving is being prepared, and will be duly promulgated. Nor must those whose harder part gives us the cause of rejoicing be overlooked. Their honors must not be parcelled out with others. I myself was near the front, and had the pleasure of transmitting much of the good news to you. But no part of the honor for plan or execution is mine. To General Grant, his skilful officers, and brave men, all belongs. The gallant navy stood ready, but was not in reach to take active part."

The remainder of the President's address, which was of some length, was about the reconstruction of the rebellious States. He closed by saying: "In the present situation, as the phrase goes, it may be my duty to make some new announcement to the people of the South. I am considering, and shall not fail to act, when satisfied that action will be proper." These were our dear Chief's last public words. The speech was unselfish to the last degree, and worthy of him. He disclaims, as usual, all credit to himself.

CHAPTER XXV.

The President at Breakfast. — Cabinet Meeting at the Theatre. — Assassination of the President by Booth. — The President's Death. — Public Grief and Indignation. — His Funeral. — Triumphal March. — Burial. — Reflections.

FRIDAY morning, the fourteenth of April, dawned upon us. The nation's heart was still wild with joy. It was the anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sumter by Major Anderson. Arrangements had been made to celebrate this day. The brave Major was to raise again over this fortress the flag he had so nobly defended. The self-same tattered

flag which he had been compelled to haul down had been preserved, and upon this day was again to kiss the breeze. Distinguished gentlemen were to be present, and every arrangement had been made worthy of so glorious an event. Nobody's heart was more devoutly thankful on this day than President Lincoln's. The terrible war was over, and he could now devote himself to the grateful task of binding up the nation's wounds, and restoring peace and harmony.

In the morning he took breakfast with his son, Captain Robert Lincoln, who was one of General Grant's staff. It was a pleasant, cheerful meal. Captain Lincoln had witnessed the surrender of General Lee, and he related all the particulars to his father.

After breakfast the President received some public men, and at eleven o'clock attended a cabinet meeting. General Grant, who hastened immediately from the field to Washington, without even looking at his conquered cities, was present. All the President's plans were warmly approved of by General Grant and by members of the Cabinet, and the meeting was very harmonious.

After it was over, the President made arrangements to attend the theatre in the evening, expecting that General Grant would go with him. It was a favorite diversion of the President's, when very tired and

worn out with care, to forget for a little while his heavy burdens in listening to some interesting play. He had a pleasant talk with his wife during the day, and spoke with much emotion of the terrible storm through which he had passed, and of the bright and peaceful future which was dawning upon us.

The evening came. General Grant had been obliged to leave town. The President was conversing with Mr. Ashmun and Mr. Colfax. He said to Mr. Colfax, "You are going to the theatre with Mrs. Lincoln and me, are you not?" Mr. Colfax said that his engagements would not permit. The President replied that he would be glad to stay at home; but as the audience were expecting both General Grant and himself, and as General Grant had left town, he did not like to disappoint them altogether. *Thus his very last act was one of self-denial.* He consulted the pleasure of others rather than his own.

About eight o'clock he got into his carriage with his wife, and drove to the house of Senator Harris for Miss Harris and Major Rathbone, when all the party proceeded to Ford's Theatre. The play was "The American Cousin." The President entered his box, which was on the second floor of the theatre, and sat down in a high-backed rocking-chair which had been arranged for him in the corner nearest to the audience, and which was about five feet from the door of

the box and directly in front of it. Mrs. Lincoln sat next to the President, at his right; Miss Harris sat next to Mrs. Lincoln, in the other corner of the box, farthest from the audience; and Major Rathbone sat upon a sofa behind Miss Harris. The box was a double one, and a small pillar rose from the centre of the railing in front to the ceiling above, and was draped with the American flag. The door of the box had been left open. The President's messenger sat outside the box near the outer door. About quarter past ten o'clock John Wilkes Booth came along the passage-way and showed a card to this messenger. Directly after, Booth stepped into the vestibule of the President's box, shut the door, and fastened it with a plank, so that it could not be opened from the outside. He then went behind the President's chair, drew a small silver-mounted pistol, and *shot the President through the back of the head.* The President uttered no cry, and did not move, except that he leaned slightly forward and closed his eyes.

All in the box heard the report of the pistol and were startled. Presently Major Rathbone saw through the smoke a man in the box, and attempted to seize him; but Booth stabbed Major Rathbone in the shoulder with a long, double-edged dagger, which he held in his hand. As soon as Booth had disabled Major Rathbone, he rushed to the front of the box,

brandishing his dagger and shouting, "*Sic semper tyrannis.*" Then placing his hand on the railing of the box, he leaped over it to the stage beneath.

But his spur caught in the flag on the front of the box, and he fell and broke his leg. He immediately sprang up, however, and again brandishing his dagger, faced the audience and exclaimed in stage tones: "*The South is avenged.*" Then darting behind the scenes, he escaped through a back door, and mounting a horse which was in waiting, rode rapidly away.

At first the audience were wholly unconscious of what had happened. Many supposed the pistol-shot was part of the play. The dreadful truth soon burst upon them, however, and surgeons were called. They quickly saw that the assassin's aim had been too true. *The wound was mortal!*

The President was removed to a house on the opposite side of the street, and placed in bed. Mrs. Lincoln was led to his side, overwhelmed with grief. Members of the Cabinet and other distinguished gentlemen remained during the night. Surgeon-General Barnes and other physicians were also in attendance; but the dear President was past mortal aid. The ball had entered behind the left ear, about three inches from it, and lodged behind the right eye. Probably the President was not conscious of a moment's suffering. After lingering through the

night, till twenty-two minutes past seven Saturday morning, Abraham Lincoln passed away from earth. He remained unconscious to the end.

While this terrible tragedy was being enacted, another almost as dreadful was going on in another part of the city. Mr. Seward, Secretary of State, was lying ill from the effects of a fall from his carriage. A villain called Payne rang Mr. Seward's door-bell about ten o'clock, telling the servant who opened the door that he was sent by the physician with a prescription for Mr. Seward, and that he must deliver it himself. The servant told him that no one could see Mr. Seward. Upon that Payne quickly pushed the boy aside and rushed upstairs to Mr. Seward's room. He was met on the way by Mr. Frederic Seward, to whom he repeated the same story.

Payne was told that he could not enter the chamber. He then drew a pistol, and beat Mr. Frederic Seward about the head until he fractured his skull and rendered him senseless. Mr. Seward's daughter, who was attending her father, heard the noise and opened the door to see what was the matter, when Payne immediately rushed in. He threw himself upon the bed, and drawing a bowie-knife stabbed Mr. Seward three times. While in this murderous act he was seized by Mr. Robinson, the nurse. Payne now turned his attention to Robinson.

Mr. Seward, with great presence of mind, immediately rolled off the farther side of the bed to the floor. In the mean time the colored boy had rushed out into the street for help, and Miss Seward was shrieking "Murder!" from the window. Payne saw that Mr. Seward was beyond his reach, and fearing he should be caught, rushed out of the house and made his escape.

It is wholly impossible to describe the conflicting emotions which rent the nation's heart as these terrible disclosures burst upon it. At first men stood still, with bated breath, stunned, refusing to believe that anything so terrible could be true. But when it could no longer be doubted, a holy and righteous indignation, mingled with a most intense and bitter grief, seemed to take possession of every heart. *It was as if a dear friend lay dead in every house.*

Strong men bowed their heads and wept. The people of the United States were one great family of mourners. All business was suspended, and all places of amusement were closed. The flags, which were still waving all over the land in honor of the victories, were placed at half mast and draped with black. Scarcely a house but wore some badge of mourning. A more than Sabbath stillness spread throughout the land.

In Washington it was feared that a dark conspiracy

was at work to destroy all the heads of the nation, and measures were immediately taken to protect persons in power from being assassinated.

Directly after the President's death his body was embalmed, carried to the White House, and placed in the Green Room. There it remained until the following Wednesday, the day of the funeral, when it was conveyed to the East Room, where the sad solemnities of the burial service took place. At twelve o'clock Andrew Johnson, who was now President of the United States, came in, followed by all the members of the Cabinet, except Mr. Seward. Captain Robert Lincoln with his little brother "Tad," his father's pet, sat nearest to the remains; their mother was too ill to leave her room. A large body of public men was present, together with all the diplomatic corps. A guard of honor watched beside the bier. Dr. Hall read the Episcopal service for the dead, Bishop Simpson offered prayer, and Dr. Gurley pronounced a funeral discourse. Then Dr. Grey, Chaplain of the Senate, offered prayer. The sacred remains were then placed in a magnificent hearse, and by two o'clock the sad procession was ready to move.

The stately train of attendants, moving to slow funereal music, escorted the body of our martyred Chief to the Capitol, which had been made ready for

the occasion. The whole immense building, from the ground to the dome, was clothed in emblems of woe. Black crape entwined the beautiful white pillars, the windows were draped in mourning, and the east door, by which the great procession was to enter, was canopied with black. At the approach of the funeral car, the bands all played a mournful dirge, the artillery thundered forth its grand and solemn accompaniment, and the vast crowd stood with uncovered heads. While the body of the President was being borne into the rotunda and placed upon the splendid catafalque which had been prepared for it, Dr. Gurley recited some beautiful sentences from the burial service. President Johnson and several Senators now came forward, followed by the family. The body-guard formed in double ranks around the remains. Dr. Gurley made a closing prayer and pronounced the benediction.

All now left the rotunda, and a guard was stationed at the doors. The body of the President was thus tenderly and securely watched during the remainder of the day and night, and until nine o'clock of the following day. Thousands seized this opportunity to take a last fond look at that beloved face. Many and many a wounded soldier hobbled on his crutches from the hospital to gaze once more upon the features of his late Commander-in-Chief.

It was decided to remove the body to Springfield, Illinois, for burial, as that city had long been the President's home. At first it was arranged to have this done as quietly as possible, without any parade. But the whole nation said, "No!" "Let us look upon the face of our beloved dead," was the spontaneous cry which arose to every lip. It seemed as if nobody could do honor enough to the precious dust.

Arrangements were made for a special funeral train over all the roads. A magnificent funeral car was prepared. A guard was selected from the veteran reserve corps, which, with a large company of invited gentlemen, formed the escort. The engine and the train were draped in black. The rate of speed was restricted, and a pilot engine steamed ahead to prevent accident. Thus this great funeral procession passed over a distance of more than a thousand miles, through some of the largest cities in the Union.

Crowds of people at every point of this long way filled every available space to catch a glimpse of the passing train; and wherever it stopped long enough for the remains to be seen, immense gatherings such as few other occasions in the world ever called forth, assembled to gaze upon the martyred dead. The casket was loaded with flowers; every house was draped in mourning; flags hung at half mast; funeral

arches were erected and inscribed with appropriate inscriptions, and the people vied with one another in tributes of honor and affection.

Thus he who little more than four years before was comparatively an unknown man, and who was obliged to enter Washington *in disguise under the cover of night*, now went forth *a mighty conqueror, his pathway of a thousand miles strewn with rarest flowers and bedewed with a nation's tears.*

They bore him to Springfield, his much loved home; and on the fourth day of May the remains were consigned to their final rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

Thus, my children, we have briefly glanced at the principal events in the life of Abraham Lincoln, from his birth to his death. We first saw him in a miserable hovel, on a cold winter's day, — a little, shivering, new-born baby. We fancied the angels must have presided over his birth, because his career proved to be so wonderful.

His assassin, — foolish, wicked man! — prompted by some evil spirit, thought he should gain immortality by his cowardly deed; but his mutilated body was placed in a nameless grave before the President was buried. He was indeed powerless for mischief, for he only placed the crown of martyrdom upon our

dear Chief's brow,—all that was wanting, if indeed anything were wanting, to make his fame immortal.

You have seen, my children, what made Abraham Lincoln great,—his incorruptible honesty, his pure-hearted integrity, his noble generosity, his self-sacrificing spirit, and his constant, unwavering trust in God. These are traits that you too can all understand and cultivate.

In this gigantic war which he carried on for four years, he had command of an army greater than that of any living monarch, he had control of immense sums of money, and he wielded in every respect an almost unlimited power; and yet no fair-minded person, even among his strongest political opponents, ever suspected his honesty, or charged him with trying to enrich himself or with acting in any way but that which he sincerely thought to be for the nation's good. It was this *marvellous* purity of motive that gave the people such confidence in him. They were not afraid to trust him to any extent with men, money, or power.

And his modesty was not less remarkable; he never showed the least pride in his great office. He treated all men, even to the poor, dirty, ragged negro that he bowed to in the streets of Richmond, as his equal. All could freely approach him; he was ready to hear everybody's story, and, if possible, to grant

what was asked of him. His heart was very tender. During the war he pardoned many and many a man who had been sentenced to death. Standing orders were given to his door-keepers to admit every messenger who came to him for the saving of life, no matter who else had to be kept waiting in consequence, even though Senators and Representatives went away without a hearing.

Mr. Carpenter has related many touching instances of his clemency, but none more beautiful than this: A poor little drummer-boy, pale and delicate, and only thirteen years old, came one day with many others to see the President. The President spied the little fellow in the crowd, and kindly said, "Come here, my boy, and tell me what you want." The child went up to the President, and leaning against his armchair, said timidly: "I have been a drummer-boy two years in one regiment; but my colonel got angry with me and turned me off. I was taken ill, and have been in the hospital a long while. To-day is the first time I have been out, and I have come to ask you to do something for me."

The President inquired of the child very kindly where he lived. "I have no home; my father died in the army, and my mother, too, is dead," said the poor boy, bursting into tears. "I have no father, no mother, no brother, no sister, no home, nowhere to

THE DRUMMER-BOY AND THE PRESIDENT.

go; nobody cares for me," he sobbed in great distress.

The President's eyes were full of tears; he said tenderly, "Can't you sell newspapers, my child?" "No," replied the boy, "I am too weak, and the surgeon says I must leave the hospital, and I have no money."

The President was much affected; he did not speak, but he took a card from his pocket and wrote on it special directions to certain officers to care for the poor little drummer-boy. The child's pale face lighted up with a joyous and grateful smile when he received the card, and he felt that he had one friend in the world, the good President.

There is another phase of the President's character of which we have said but little, — his great love of humor. He told an endless number of funny stories; but for all that he seemed habitually sad. Mr. Carpenter says Mr. Lincoln's face was the saddest he ever painted. But the President had a fortunate way of forgetting, for a moment, the heavy burdens which pressed upon him, in relating or listening to some pleasant story.

He was almost adored by his family. The loss of his little son Willie, who died at Washington, was a great grief to the President. The little body was

placed in the funeral car by his father's side, and carried to Springfield.

Time would fail us to tell the many beautiful things which might be said of this great man. His course was such as to command the respect of all the nations of the earth. European halls of State were draped in mourning, when news of his death reached their shores. The Queen of England and the Empress of France both wrote letters of condolence to Mrs. Lincoln, and mingled their tears with hers. Coming generations will read and marvel at his wonderful career, and be stirred by his tragic death. He died for liberty, and earned the martyr's crown. Among the greatest of all great names is that of our martyred President, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BOW·DOWN·DEAR·LAND·FOR·THOV·HAST·FOVND·RELEASE·
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